

**The Ramakrishna Mission
Institute of Culture Library**

**Presented by
Dr. Baridbaran Mukerji**

BMICL-8

6

16436

RECOLLECTIONS

OF

NOTABLE EAST INDIANS

AND

OTHER CELEBRITIES.

BY

"A GRATEFUL INDIAN."

Calcutta:

PRINTED AT THE "INDIAN DAILY NEWS" PRESS,
9, BRITISH INDIAN STREET.

1893.

R.M.I.C LIBRARY	
Acc No	16436
Class. No	9126 REL
Date:	
Serv.	
Cd	✓
Cd	✓
Bk Cd	✓
Checked	MB

PREFACE.

I AM encouraged to reprint the brief notices of NOTABLE EAST INDIANS from the kind manner in which they have been treated by several correspondents of the "*Indian Daily News*," in which they originally appeared,—especially for the following letters ; to the writers whereof I beg to offer my grateful acknowledgments.

A GRATEFUL INDIAN.

25th January 1893.

THE GRATEFUL INDIAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—It is painful to observe the *Recorder's* display of bad taste in its issue of 25th. The vindictive attacks on "A GRATEFUL INDIAN" can only recoil with redoubled force on the head of their author. Evidently the *Recorder* is completely devoid of a sense of appreciation of what is good and worthy. By a wanton denunciation of the sketches of Old East Indians, the Eurasian organ has not inconsiderably lowered itself on the peg of public estimation. If the "Grateful Indian" was errant in point of facts regard-

ing those East Indian Worthies of whom he wrote, it would have been commendable in the *Recorder* to have set them aright than to hurl promiscuous abuse at the benevolent motives and the language of the writer. Abuse is intolerable, and is the *Recorder's* own condemnation.

Yours, &c.,

C. C.

P.S.—Permit me to thank “A Grateful Indian” for his kind notice of worthy members of my community.

C. C.

—*Indian Daily News*, 31st August 1892.

Extract from “READER’S” letter, published in the “Indian Daily News” of 25th August 1892.

“Many of your readers must have found much of interest in the sketches by “GRATEFUL INDIAN” of the East Indians he has written for the *Indian Daily News*. In passing, it may be remarked that the name (Old East Indians) at the head of this letter has been well chosen by him. It is less suggestive than Eurasian, and it may even with sound logic be applied to that large fraction of country-borns who are in contradistinction known as domiciled Europeans. * * * And one thing may be learnt, that though the men sketched were not of any accidental attainments,—such as is understood in these days,—they rose by sheer dint of hard work and determined to grapple with difficulties. * * * If “GRATEFUL INDIAN’S” letters have done nothing more, they have at least revealed the secret of success in the case of the most conspicuous of the group.”

RECOLLECTIONS
OF
NOTABLE EAST INDIANS
AND
OTHER CELEBRITIES.

I.

As you (Mr. Editor) have lent the columns of your paper (*Indian Daily News*) for ventilating the grievances of the East Indians, or Eurasians, of all ranks of life, I will thank you to permit me to say a few words about them, as I have had intercourse with them since the year 1841. My father was born about the year 1773, and he received his education,—limited in those days to reading, writing, and arithmetic,—under an East Indian teacher, who used to go from house to house teaching the Hindoo boys, both of the middle and aristocratic classes, who could afford to pay a small fee. Such was the nature of his training, that my father obtained, at the age of 16, an appointment in the Arsenal of Fort William as an accountant, and he rose to the post of Head Assistant and Head Accountant in the same office. In this position he was not unmindful of the benefits he derived under the tuition of an East Indian master, and on every vacancy, to which a decent salary was attached, he introduced East Indian young men in the office. There was one Mr. Dozey so employed, whose great-grandson is the young Mr. Dozey now employed in the new Account Office in the Cashmere State. The school which still goes by the name of Oriental Seminary, was founded by the

late Baboo Gour Mohun Auddy, and this was in the last days of the old Hindoo College, its rival. To this seminary I was sent for my education, as my father believed that, as this school had a staff of East Indian masters, the education imparted was not only sound but useful in life. When I joined the Oriental Seminary, about the year 1843, the teaching staff consisted, from the lowest form, of Messrs. Martin, Vallis, Stephen, Hornby, Mackenzie, Pascal DeRozario, Herman Jefry, and afterwards, Captain D. L. Richardson and Rev. Dr. Nash. The Seminary turned out the best students, notably the late Hon'ble Justice Sumbhoo Nath Pandit, the late Baboo Sreenath Ghose, Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, and the Hindoo gentlemen who started and edited the *Bengalee* and *Hindu Patriot*; the late Rai Kristo Dass Pal was one of the fruits of that Seminary, and a host of others too numerous to mention.

Some ex-students of this Seminary opened a theatre in 1853, which was called the Oriental Theatre; and some plays of Shakspeare were represented, under the direction of an East Indian, Mr. Clinger, who in those days was possessed of histrionic talents. This amateur dramatic corps, having had the advantage of learning the principal plays under Captains Richardson and Palmer, were trained up as stage actors with great ease. The actors performed so creditably the parts of Othello, Iago, and Shylock, that the stage attracted the élite of Calcutta, such as the Judges of the old Supreme Court, Members of Council, Secretaries to Government, &c. This was the first theatre on the English model, which was got up by the East Indian, Mr. Clinger. You will excuse me for the detail, as I mean to show how very successful the East Indian teachers were, and the interest they took in the education of Hindoo pupils. The founder of the Oriental Seminary used to pay the East Indian and English teachers from Rs. 50 to Rs. 200 per mensem. Generally, the ex-students of the old Parental College, now Doveton College, supplied the teaching staff of this and other Indian schools, both in Calcutta and the Mofussil. The work

of the teachers, in the pre-University days, was easy, as the course of studies were not changed every year, as now, in the schools for training graduates and under-graduates of the Calcutta University ; and this is one reason why this field is shut against the East Indians. Besides the smallness of pay at which Indian teachers can be had for private schools, is not attractive for such of them as are possessed of the qualifications required at the present time. Consequently, the Department of Education is not sought by them. It was my old father's wish, that if I sought for a *keerany's* post in a government office, I should select one which has a large number of East Indian clerks, saying, that in such an office, I will prosper soon as the East Indians never stick in one office, and so there is no block in the promotion. I managed to get into a big office not far from Government House, such as my father desired. In those days, the copying work was done at section rate, i.e., 750 words per rupee, for copying confidential papers, and 1,400 words per rupee, for ordinary copying work. In this branch, the East Indian clerks got the better over the Hindoo clerks. Their monthly earnings were from Rs. 100 to even Rs. 700 in some cases. That was the system followed in all big Secretariat and in small offices. This offered an exclusive advantage to not a small number of East Indians. The introduction of printing has destroyed this branch of industry to the misfortunes of the East Indians. The private press offered good pay to printers, compositors, &c., before the introduction of printing in Government offices, and the East Indians had the entire monopoly. Cheap journalism, and cheap printing establishment are fostered, from Hindoo compositors, &c., being more available on small pay, and consequently the East Indians do not seek this branch of industry now. Here, again, another source of living is denied to the East Indians. The East Indians had once the monopoly of the shoe-making business. Some of the shops owned by them were greatly patronised, not only by the European community, but also largely by the natives of the upper and middle classes. Thirty years ago there were a number of such

shops in Cossitollah, now Bentinck Street, and Lall Bazar and Bow Bazar. The Chinese shoe-makers and the importation of English-made shoes, are the cause of the East Indian shoe-makers' tools lying useless, like the weavers' looms in this country. The English community, which has been roused to devise measures to relieve the East Indians from present distress, have been very selfish, and should not have withheld their patronage, which has destroyed this branch of industry, which used to give a number of East Indians a decent income. Other branches of industry may be named, but to no useful purpose. It may be asked, why the Banking and European mercantile establishments have literally shut their doors against the poor East Indians, and why they prefer natives? It is for them to reply. The European community must not be insensible of the valuable service the East Indians rendered in saving life and property of the subjects in this metropolis, by enlisting themselves as Volunteers during the dark days of the Sepoy Mutiny. Government have done, and are doing, enough for them. 'Now if the English merchants, Banking houses, owners of mills and tea plantations lend their help to this poor community, half their present destitution will be met by extending patronage as in olden times. Considerable sums of money are spent by Hindoos at the time of marriage ceremonies every year, and the amount is nothing under Rs. 20,000. In times gone by, East Indian bands were patronised exclusively. The British Regimental Bands, and Native Infantry Bands attached to regiments stationed in Fort William, Dum-Dum, and Barrackpore, are in the habit of joining marriage processions, and the remuneration they now receive went exclusively into the pockets of the East Indian band suppliers, whose numbers in Calcutta have greatly decreased from want of support, which is given to European and Native Infantry Regimental Bands. Here, another source of income to a large number of East Indians is withdrawn. I could multiply other instances which have given rise to East Indian destitution, but you can hardly afford me space.—*Indian Daily News*, 7th July 1892.

II.

OUR correspondent, "A Grateful Indian," who recently sent us a communication giving his impressions of the East Indian, so far as he could recall to his memory, in his vocation as instructor of native youth, from the early days of the East India Company's factories in Calcutta, up to the Sepoy Mutiny period and pre-University days, has sent us a further interesting article on the same subject. "The East Indian was, he writes," an important factor in all departments of business, whether appertaining to the Government or the European merchants and adventurers who traded in the East. From his familiar intercourse with the natives, the East Indian was well up in their colloquial language, which helped him to act as interpreter and middleman between the English officers and merchants and their native employées; he was, consequently, an indispensable assistant to the Europeans in their domestic and public concerns, which afforded him every opportunity to learn, and to be thoroughly initiated in, the arts and crafts introduced by the Europeans, which were quite novel to the native. The English capitalists, whether as merchants, traders, shop keepers, hotel-keepers, livery stable owners, cabinet makers, coach builders, &c., they could not ply their business without the aid of the East Indian, in order to give directions to the native workmen and laborers. The schools or colleges started by Government or the Missionaries could not do anything without him. The early Missionaries,—Marshman, Carey and Duff—sought the help of the East Indian to preach the Gospel among the natives in their vernacular, nor could the English master and professor go on unless the East Indian had first taught the native pupils in the rudiments of the English language. The East Indian having thus acquired a knowledge of the arts and industries from the Europeans, started business on his own account, with native capitalists, as house-builders, coach-builders, cabinet-makers, house-

decorators, &c., and the natives, in their turn, acquired a knowledge of the crafts secondhand, through the East Indian, who thrived in his business. The wealthy and aristocratic natives had recourse to the East Indian for their carriages, house furnitures, dresses, &c., after the English model, which were comparatively cheaper than in English shops. The coach-builder, Johnson, of Circular Road, and the Cabinet-maker, Victor, of Bow Bazaar, in their early days did splendid business. The owner of an iron foundry, Mr. Lackersteen, taught the natives work in this direction. The buildings in Sealdah, now abandoned, testify to the magnitude of the work which his foundry had turned out. Rush of English capitalists, and the proficiency in arts, in a new direction, acquired by the natives, drove the East Indian from the field. The early hotel-keeper was the East Indian, who, while attending to the requirements of the European community, was not unmindful of creating a taste for English dishes, to a small extent, among the natives. At entertainments given by the native gentry to their European guests, the East Indian did his part as purveyor. The founder of the Great Eastern Hotel, in its old name, Wilson's Hotel, employed the East Indian, but with the expansion of its business and of similar establishments of Europeans, the East Indian has been obliged to retire from the business.

The East Indian was an important factor in the management and training of horses, but the gradual importation of English blood to help the owners made the East Indian retire. The high officers of Government and European merchants, in those olden times, would seldom resort to markets for bazaar supplies, as such places were not then fit for aristocratic customers to attend personally. The East Indian Agency was consequently largely employed. The late Mutty Lall Seal's Dhurru-m-tollah Market, in olden times, and the Municipal Market now, reduced the inconvenience to a minimum, and the East Indians' occupation in this direction is gone. The only business which has not been competed for by either European or native, is that of an undertaker, in which the East Indian has the entire monopoly.

The East Indian in those days played an important part as trader on his own account. D'Souza and Co., Pereira and Co., and D'Rozario and Co., may be cited as having done splendid business. The last firm was very useful, as it supplied cheap standard school books, and the corner building, east of the Scotch Church, in Dalhousie Square, is still called by the name of Rozario's Library, which, however, had to be wound up owing to too much competition of the present day. In the collieries founded in Raneegunge by the Bengal Coal Company and Gobin Persad Pundit, before that place was tapped by rail, the East Indian did good work in the coal pits.

"There does not appear to have been any unity in the East Indian in commercial enterprises, as, otherwise, several branches of industry, which he helped in introducing through European capitalists, might have been carried on by him, by forming business concerns, with combined or joint capital. He could have well prospered if he had directed his attention to millinery, tailoring, watch-making, and other requirements of the European and Indian communities.

The first cheap daily newspaper here is due to the exertions of an East Indian,—Mr. Mendes, I think, who started the *Citizen*, under the editorial management of Mr. John Newmarch and Captain Palmer.

The present extensive printing, and cheap newspaper speculation among the natives now, is the result of their connection with the East Indian. Similarly, many arts and industries after the English model, which now occupy the attention of the natives, were taught by the East Indian who first learnt them from his English masters.

The South Suburban roads are the work of an East Indian employé—Mr. Campbell, who is said to have done his work admirably, both as contractor and engineer. The road in Entally leading to his Villa is called after his name.

In the Telegraph and the Railway the East Indian did good service during construction. The signallers and stationmasters were in the beginning almost exclusively East Indians. But natives having learnt signalling are now employed as being cheap. Only at important stations, the East Indian is employed as Station Master and Railway Guard. When Dr. (afterwards Sir) W. B. O'Shaughnessy completed the underground system of laying down telegraph-lines from Alipore to Diamond Harbour, he commenced the work at first with East Indian agency, which, however, retarded the progress of the experimental line sanctioned by Lord Dalhousie, owing to the intemperate use of country spirits in which the East Indian indulged in the villages through which the line had to cross underground, for want of European supervision. Dr. O'Shaughnessy was alleged to have employed native agency exclusively. When the line was completed up to Diamond Harbour, native youths were employed as signallers; but as Diamond Harbour was very unhealthy at the time, the native signallers caught jungli fever, and one of them died. After this event nothing could induce native youths to face the dangers, real or imaginary, of Diamond Harbour. Thus Dr. O'Shaughnessy, who had great predilection for natives, had to abandon the idea, and made extensive use of East Indians in the Telegraph Department. East Indians had always been the pioneers in all branches of the service. Among the attorneys of the late Supreme Court there were one or two East Indians. Among the pleaders of the Calcutta Small Cause Court the number of this class was pretty respectable in those days. The diminution at present is by reason of selection being confined among B. L. Graduates of the Calcutta University.

" Among members of the *Sudder Aia*, now called the Subordinate Judicial Service, Mr. Dacosta was conspicuous, and a few others. The same reason as of pleaders of the Small Cause Courts, applies to the absence of East Indians' from this service. Among members of the Subordinate Executive Service (Deputy Magistrates), there have been some East Indians who owed their

appointments to the favour of high officials. Messrs. Mackenzie and Ryland may be mentioned as belonging to the old *régime*.

The first named, besides other qualifications, was an expert fiddler, and his fiddling attracted the notice of a Lieutenant-Governor, who appointed Mr. Mackenzie a Deputy Magistrate of the higher grade. He was a very able and popular Collector of Calcutta. His administration of the Income Tax—new of its kind in this country—was made in a way agreeable to the people of the city on its introduction.

The East Indian, in posts of the higher grade of clerks in Secretariat and other offices, was very useful ; he possessed the happy knack of adopting in drafts the cut and ready language of the notes written on cases by the Secretaries or members of Government. This adaptation was carried to such an extent that an anecdote, quite humorous, may not be out of place here. A certain Military Paymaster made over-payments of an officer's allowance. The officer liable o deduction of pay of the retrenched amount died. The case was reported to superior authority for orders. The order was that if the Paymaster's explanation, which was called for, was found not satisfactory, the retrenched amount should be recovered from his pay. The explanation not being satisfactory, the superior authority remarked, " that having shown my teeth, I would bite." The direction for office was to draft accordingly. The East Indian Clerk, in preparing the order, used the very words under inverted commas. Of course this want of commonsense called forth a reprimand. This is quite in keeping with the Hindoo copyist, who on making a true copy of a letter, discovered that there was a mark of a dead fly on the original, and he killed a fly and placed it in the position as it was in the original.

The East Indians invariably held the posts of Registrars in the Secretariats, on pay ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs. 700, and they were very useful officers. They were well up in quoting precedents, as the Government decided fresh cases, with reference

to precedents. The East Indian Registrars of the period were Mr. E. Decruz of the Financial Department, Mr. Andrew D'Cruz of the Home Department, Mr. C. Macleod of the Foreign Department, Mr. McDermott of the Military Department, Mr. H. Andrews of the P. W. D., Mr. Jones of the Board of Revenue, Mr. Lemister of the Bengal Secretariat, Mr. Kirkpatrick of the late Sudder Dewany Adawlut, Mr. Roston of the old Treasury, Mr. Verboon of the late Civil Audit, and Mr. Howe of the Government Loan Department. These were very able officers, and for the respect they commanded, the appellation of *Chota Huzoors* was given by their subordinates. Some of these men were retained long after the prescribed period of service qualifying for pension. The Registrar, Mr. Decruz, was the first to introduce printing in Government Secretariats. Although during the period I speak of there was a limit—thus far, and no more—in the aspirations of Hindoo assistants and clerks, but the really meritorious and deserving of them were promoted beyond the limits, on the recommendation of the Registrars named. During Lord Dalhousie's administration, a native was for the first time appointed a Presidency Magistrate, and a like liberal policy was adopted in the Treasury and Custom House, by throwing open the posts to members of the Uncovenanted Service, which were previously held by junior civil servants. Accordingly Mr. (afterwards Sir) George Kellner was appointed Assistant-Accountant-General, India, Mr. Roston, Assistant Sub-Treasurer, and Mr. Bonnaud, Assistant Collector of Customs. Sir George Kellner was the Prince of the East Indian community. His talents and abilities shone brilliantly in connection with his deputation to the Government Stud Department. He was finally promoted to the post of Accountant-General, Military Department, and his merit was recognized by Her Majesty's Government, and the honour of knighthood was conferred on him. The Hayleybury civilians, owing to old tradition, had a special liking for East Indians of the olden times; so much so that a certain Registrar procured for his son a Commission in the Army through a Chairman of the late Court of Directors. Like sympathy and almost paternal kindness are not

shown by the competitive civilians who followed the policy, as in their own case, to reward merit in regularly promoting to superior posts, whether he be a native or East Indian, and averse to make any distinction of colour or creed.

Some East Indians of those days, if prosperous, preferred to have European wives instead of confining their selection in their own class. This new connection led to extravagant expenses, and they had to bid adieu to their economical habits of living. One of this class amassed nearly one lakh of rupees, and he thought, rather late in life, of forming matrimonial connection; he selected for his partner a young lady fresh from the mother-country. A few months after the consummation of marriage, the climate was found not to agree with his wife, who, therefore, had to be sent back to England, and the East Indian was not only obliged to remit half his salary every month, but had also to meet extra demands, and gradually his one lakh of rupees, invested in Government Securities, dwindled to a very low figure. This may be an extreme case, but this illustration serves to show the distress and disappointment in life, from choice of partners, in the way as this East Indian did, and he had to repent bitterly for it afterwards.

By taking European, and consequently costly wives many East Indians fell victims in the hands of usurers. Good and honest men, who accommodated them on easy terms, found themselves cheated. Hence usurers lent them money, charging one or two annas on the rupee as interest, and such East Indians, from an extravagant mode of living, had at last to resort to the Insolvent Court for relief. I may be permitted to cite one instance. A certain East Indian, when on receipt of pay of Rs. 200 per month, took a fancy for a European young lady, and married her, borrowing Rs. 500 at an exorbitant rate of interest to defray the marriage expenses. This debt increased to Rs. 3,000 in five or six years, and he was unable to pay. His ultimatum was to throw up his post and take the benefit of the Insolvent Act. This man had rented a house from a Hindoo lady on Rs. 80 a month, his pay at the time was Rs. 400. He appealed to his landlady for a loan of Rs. 3,000, as otherwise

he will have to give up his post and bring distress on his family and children. This landlady requested her friend, also a Hindoo lady, to come to her tenant's rescue, and on the assurance that the East Indian was a good and respectable man, the money was advanced on the security of his life policy at 12% interest per annum. The East Indian promised to pay the quarterly or monthly premium, and said the premium receipts are required to be submitted with his pay bills for abatement of the income tax, and they will be sent to the lender in usual course. In the meantime the man died, and the Hindoo lady was disappointed to find that the premium was not paid, and the life policy was invalid. Such was the generous treatment which a kind-hearted Hindoo lady met with for acting through benevolent motives. Will any kind-hearted East Indian be disposed to recoup this lady for her loss. The East Indian of former days belonged to the Epicurean school,—“Eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow we die.” When at Rome, one should adopt the life of a Roman. If the East Indian had followed the rule, and had been as thrifty as the natives, he would have been master of his position, and many of his class would have been landholders, and not lack-landers.

The Medical, Judicial, Engineering, Executive, and all similar Departments, which are only accessible after the candidates had previous training and sound education, which means hard toil from 8 to 5 years, after little-go pass and expenditure of money, the East Indian is conspicuous by his absence—Merit, etc., and no favour being the official cry, and only passport for employment, one may cry *pourse* for loaves and fishes, but the cry will be in the wilderness. I therefore make the following suggestions :—

(1) That 5 stipends of Rs. 30 each be given to each of these Colleges—St. Xavier's, Doveton and La Martiniere—for 5 years, and the pupils be required to complete their studies so as to enable them to enter the Legal, Medical, and Engineering professions.—Thus the field, which is closed to them now, will be open, and the successful results of the first batch will be an incentive to others to follow.

(2) That a fund be created from which small advances be made to a few, in the beginning, for cultivation purposes, and the lands now being reclaimed by the Municipal Corporation in the Salt-water Lakes be given rent free, which will yield vegetables and fruits for the Calcutta market.

(3) That in every Government office, Mercantile and Banking establishments in Calcutta, one third of the employées be taken from qualified East Indians—and a like method be adopted by the Railway companies.

(4) That the Missionaries be requested to employ East Indians as pastors and preachers of the Gospel, as in the days of Marshman, Carey and Duff.

(5) That the officers in charge of European and Native Regiments stationed in Fort William, Dum-Dum and Barrackpur, be forbidden to lend their hands to Hindoo gentlemen for marriage processions. This will lead to the increase of Eurasian bands.

(6) That there is at present a growing demand with our University graduates for Lawn-Tennis, Cricket, Football, Gymnastics, and other pastimes after the English form. The East Indians may be induced to open dancing saloons, in which dancing and music may be taught on small fees. Native young men will be found ready to receive such instructions. The Zenana plan of educating native ladies will soon create in them a want in this direction, but their husbands should qualify themselves in the meantime for such amusements in their own houses. This will be a new source of income of the East Indians if they would start the scheme. Already there is a considerable number of Brahmo ladies from East Bengal who now wear lady's shoes and boots, and they will be only too glad, if opportunity is offered, to learn dancing, and playing on the piano. It cannot be expected that the Saloons proposed to be started will draw them immediately, but their husbands must learn first.

It is a pity that the wives of our Indian Christians are sadly deficient in this innocent amusement, and it is time, with the

march of civilization, or according to Western ideas, that qualification in this direction should no longer be held in abeyance. It is nonsense to say that dancing in English form is irreligious and immoral. Hear what the Bishop of Chester in a sermon recently delivered by him in Benbury church has said :—" In both testaments, joy was recognized as a necessary and a most wholesome part of the human life. If they took away joy, the sunshine went out of their lives, and their whole nature began to dwindle away. It was important for parents and instructors of the young to remember that if they left out the element of joy, they were leaving out what, if judiciously employed, was one of the most powerful levers for enabling man to live and work." Again the same divine says : " Not one word would he say against dancing, for the Bible, and God in Nature, spoke of dancing. Surely it was He who put it into the feet and limbs of young children."

The most puritanical native christian, nor indeed any pious Brahmo, can say that it is sinful to cultivate dancing, and I would ask my East Indian friends to give a start to the scheme without delay.

These are some hints which I make in all seriousness for bettering the condition of the East Indians, and I trust they will receive consideration by those who have interested themselves in their cause."—*Indian Daily News, July 19,*

III.

My record of recollections of East Indians of olden times would be incomplete if I were to exclude a few other prominent officers who did useful service, as the old batch of Registrars in Government offices. Almost with the foundation of the Calcutta Mint, designed by Col. Forbes, whose bust will be found in that noble piece of architecture as the first Mint Master, Mr. Greenway, an East Indian, was associated as Registrar of the Mint Committee's office. The Committee consisted of the Financial Secretary as President, with the Accountant General, and Mint

Master as members, and the Under Secretary to Government as its ex-officio Secretary. Old Mr. Greenway, a fine affable East Indian, was a living encyclopædia in all matters relating to bullion, silver coinage, and assay. He was assisted by his son, young Mr. Greenway, and Mr. Bridgnell—the latter was an expert, and a master in the intricacies of Mint Accounts. Young Mr. Greenway was the first Assistant Commissioner of Paper Currency. He and Sir George Kellner were the connecting links of the race of the pre, and after, sepoy mutiny period. Mr. Greenway did useful service on the introduction of Paper Currency. His previous experience in Silver Currency fitted him admirably for this novel department of the Government. The first two East Indians who received the coveted posts, usually held in those days by Covenanted Civilians, were bestowed on these two East Indian officers. As I have already said, Sir George Kellner was the man of mark of his time. The ancient barrier in the way of the East Indians having been broken in these two instances, others came in. Mr. Robert Belchambers, Registrar of the High Court, and Mr. Boyce, Secretary to the Public Works Department, Bengal, are honoured names of the same period. Mr. Belchambers' knowledge of legal precedents, his tact and abilities, coupled with his extreme politeness, are highly prized. So much so, that a late eminent Chief Justice is said to have remarked, that had he eaten the prescribed number of dinners in a London Inns of Court, it would have given him great satisfaction to secure for Mr. Belchambers a seat on the Bench of the High Court. Sir George Kellner, Mr. Boyce, and Mr. Belchambers are the shining lights in the horizon of the East Indian community.

Mr. R. C. Tullah, who held a ministerial post in the Audit Office, was appointed Assistant Civil Pay Master, and afterwards, Examiner of Claims. He was of Scotch parentage, but born and bred in this country. He was an able man. To him credit is due for having published a manual of rules which relate to the Covenanted and Uncovenanted Services, &c., which contained, in a condensed, form the resolutions of the Government on

the subject. In fact, he laid the germ, or rather, the foundation, of the audit and account codes, which have now been enlarged and published by authority. Mr. Robert Hollingbery was appointed Principal Assistant Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial Department. He commenced his career in the old Military Auditor-General's Office of the period. He was of brilliant parts and very assiduous, and did good service in his time.

Mr. W. Clark belonged to the same period. He rose to the post of Deputy Accountant-General, Bengal. His experience in accounts and long service, brought him promotion to a gazetted post.

Similarly, from posts of Registrars or Head Assistants, Mr. Hudson was appointed Accountant-General, Hyderabad Assigned Districts; Mr. C. R. Keirnander, as Accountant-General, British Burmah, and lastly, Deputy-Comptroller-General of India; Mr. James Taylor, as Deputy Accountant-General, Bengal; Mr. J. E. Cook, as Deputy-Comptroller-General; Mr. E. W. Kellner, as Deputy Accountant-General, Bengal, and now as Accountant-General, Punjab; Mr. Ronaldson, as Assistant Accountant-General, Bengal; Mr. G. Macleod, as last; Mr. R. A. Fink, as Assistant Secretary, Financial Department, and afterwards, Assistant Accountant-General, Bengal, and Mr. Byrne, as Inspector of Account Offices. There may be a few others, but I mention those of whom I have personal recollection. Some are "gone to that bourne whence no traveller returns," while others are enjoying their well-earned retirement, and I am glad that two or three of them are still in harness, but they are on the eve of retirement under the 55 years' rule, which has, however, been stretched in their favour up to the age of 60 years.

These are all deserving officers, who rose from ministerial beginnings to high official sphere, by their industry, marked ability, and intelligence. The Rubicon having been first crossed by Sir George Kellner, others of his race followed in quick succession.

Now, Mr. Editor, you have been constantly worried with letters from your East Indian correspondents, complaining bitterly that Government have shown great predilection for the Indians in the disposal of posts on high salaries. The East Indian celebrities, whom I have named, are the outcome of long years of patient toil, and what is above all, their thorough honesty, which have made them prominent members, or rather shining lights of the East Indian community of the pre and after sepoy mutiny period, which may be called the golden age of the East Indians. It would be a very agreeable task to select some of them for writing sketches of their official life, with a detail of how they rose to the topmost ladder; and such a biographical work may be taken up by a rising East Indian aspirant for honors, for the benefit of the young men thirsting for place and honor before their proper season. I would single out from this group, Mr. James Taylor, who commenced his early career as a Deputy Magistrate, but failing health in a bad climate made him resign and join the post of a senior Assistant in the office of Accountant-General, India. Long he did not continue in this subordinate position. His industry, intelligence and devotion to duty soon brought him to prominent notice. When the new system of account was recommended for adoption here by the English Commissioners, Mr. Taylor was selected to carry it out in the Bengal Accountant-General's Office and in the Treasuries subordinate to it. Mr. Taylor had to confront old prejudices of men who were averse to any change, which was in the beginning as irksome, as it was to the Calcutta Custom House coolies on the introduction of the wheel barrows, which required the exertion of the loins in lieu of carrying loads on their heads. To Mr. Taylor is due the credit of prescribing a simple procedure giving clear instructions by circulars; and the new system was found to work so smoothly that it was introduced afterwards in all provincial account offices and treasuries. All this work he performed with

incessant labour at the desk, first as Assistant Accountant-General, and afterwards as Deputy Accountant-General. He was deputed to the Behar District famine accounts, to bring into order; and on his return he was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Paper Currency.

Mr. Taylor's devotion to duty and his patience to go through every detail were unique. He was strict but just—nepotism and favoritism were foreign to his nature. Drones he removed, while the meritorious he recommended for promotion without distinction of creed or colour. In the supervision and management of a big office or department, and with taking a considerable quantity of work as his own personal share, he secured a reputation for himself. There are bird fanciers, as there are man fanciers in office. It may not be the good fortune of all to rise to the topmost ladder where promotion goes by seniority, and if Mr. Taylor did not obtain promotion to the highest post, like one or two of his contemporaries, he had the consolation of having done his duty to the State, and if he has retired, or is on the eve of retirement, he can enjoy his well earned rest with a clear conscience.

Viewing with official spectacles I may well say of him :

“ He is a man take him for all in all
I shall not look upon his like again.”

The eminent East Indian celebrities are one by one passing away, and if their places or their positions are closed against the present or rising generation, it will be owing to dearth of abilities and talents for which they have to thank themselves, and should not blame the Government for importing English blood to fill up the gaps in the service.

My earnest advice to my young East Indian friends, is to follow the footsteps of their predecessors, and if they persevere they will meet with the same success in life, and remember

as the motto of their every-day life, the following lines of Longfellow :—

“ Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us,
Foot prints on the sands of time :—

“ Foot prints, that perhaps another, -
Sailing on our life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

“ Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate ;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.”

Indian Daily News, 26th July 1892.

IV.

A HINDOO octogenarian, who was confidential clerk of a very able and eminent barrister of olden times, on reading my narratives of East Indian celebrities, noticed my allusion to Mr. Robert Belchambers as very meagre, and said that the writer should have furnished your readers with a short history of his services. I am indebted to him chiefly for the following particulars of his early career.

It is not the lot of every man to be born with a golden spoon in his mouth, and similarly it is not the good fortune of every man to begin his official career with a golden pen in his hand. One of the favoured few of the last kind is Mr. Belchambers. About 42 years ago he entered the service of the late Supreme Court here in a very subordinate capacity, and it is no dishonour to him to say that his pay was only Rs. 20 at the first start. He showed signs of his future greatness. In 1851 he was appointed Deputy Registrar—an office then newly created by the

Judges of the Court. Three years after, he was appointed Chief Clerk of the Insolvent Court in addition to his duties as Deputy Registrar. In 1862 the office of Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court was merged in that of Registrar, High Court, and Mr. Robert Belchambers was appointed Registrar. In addition to the duties of Registrar, he was appointed Taxing Officer, Account-General and Sealer. All these duties, very onerous and responsible, are to this day combined in the same person. It is a Herculean task, and nothing short of an iron constitution can bear the strain. Mr. Belchambers has performed these quasi-judicial duties, and is continuing to hold every office to which he then stood appointed. In all these functions he has had to display the qualifications of a judge, barrister, and attorney, and, what is more, he considered the case of a plaintiff or defendant in a Civil suit as if he were personally interested. His long continued connection with the highest Court for about half a century is a proof of the high esteem in which he was held by all the successive learned Chief Justices of the late Supreme Court and now of the High Court.

The East Indian celebrities whom I have noticed before, were those whose services were confined within the charmed official circle in which they moved. But Mr. Belchambers' services went beyond the range of his official duties. He is a valuable contributor to law-literature. His note on the Bill to Consolidate the Law Relating to the Sheriff and to the Execution of Decrees of the High Court, submitted to Government by the learned Judges in 1874, brought to light that Mr. Belchambers was not a mere routine clerk. About the year 1875 he published rules of procedure which were adopted by the Court, and some of them have been embodied in the Civil Procedure Code of 1882.

In 1880 Mr. Belchambers published a volume containing notes and index of rules and orders of the High Court, which is now a text-book for the examination of vakils and attornies. In 1884 he published a book of "Practice of Civil Courts." He is also an antiquarian in his researches amidst musty and worn-

eaten records of the late Supreme Court. Witness his historical note of cases of capital punishment prior to the sentence of Nund Coomar by Sir Elijah Impey—a subject which is still discussed by the learned men of the legal profession.

Mr. Belchambers' service is not confined within the sphere of the High Court, nor indeed is his experience availed of only by the barristers, attornies and vakils. He has left his mark in almost all suits for partition of landed estates in Calcutta and the suburbs. There is hardly any landed property, great or small, which has been inherited intact, or which is continued in the same condition as it was founded more than a century ago. The division and sub-division of properties owned by Hindoo aristocratic and middle class families of this city have been effected by Mr. Belchambers with such a degree of fairness that the shareholders have had little or no reason to be dissatisfied. He was never found to loose his temper, and the mild and pursuasive way in which he addressed the most obstinate co-sharers' of a joint family property under partition invariably led them to give in. His name has passed for a household word in many Hindoo families.

I was myself personally interested in the partition of a property, and Mr. Belchambers was appointed Commissioner of Partition. I spent much of my humble earnings for the improvement of a joint family estate, and paid all rents and taxes for a period of nearly thirty years, and my prayer in the partition suit was that all the amounts spent by me might be recouped to me *minus* my share of liability on this account. The learned Judge decided in my favor, and I was very glad. But, when the decree had to be settled, Mr. Belchambers said, that according to procedure in such cases I could get a refund of rates and taxes for three years only from the other co-shareholders. I was very much annoyed, and I contended before the Commissioner that, according to the letter of the judgment, I was entitled to the amount for the entire period of thirty years. But I had to submit eventually. Mr. Belchambers, however, for this

disappointment, allowed me the option of selecting the allotment out of several portions. This gave me advantage over the other co-shareholders, and I will remember the obligation to the last day of my life. I only cite my case as an illustration of how such tough and difficult partition cases are brought to a satisfactory conclusion by his tact and wise judgment. Now, looking to the enormous quantity of work which this officer turned out, not only for the High Court, but also for the general public, for nearly half a century, who can say that the regret, said to have been expressed by a late learned Chief Justice, at his hands being tied down by the Letters Patent for the appointment of the Judges of the High Court, is either improbable or a mere myth.

If the Hindoo community are proud of the appointment of the late Hon'ble Dwarka Nath Mitter, and the Mahomedan community of the Hon'ble Mr. Amir Ali, as Judges of the High Court, surely the East Indian community have every reason to be proud of Mr. Belchambers, who is possessed of all the qualities of a Judge, but who is precluded from occupying his seat on the Bench, because he has not passed through a London Inns of Court, or because he has not worked as a vakil for a certain period. His modesty, his great abilities and his uprightness of conduct have won for him the estimation of the learned judges, barristers, attornies, suitors and the general public. He is a model East Indian worthy, and when he retires, his community, I trust, will mark their appreciation of his great qualities in such a fitting manner that the rising future generation can point him as a self-made man, and as one who did not think it derogatory to rise from small beginnings; and that his present position of dignity and trust are the outcome of singular devotion to duty, his straight-forwardness and his uniform kindness for his subordinates, whether Christian or heathen. Though he has attained to a green old age, still he continues in harness with all the alacrity of his youthful days. He is exceedingly modest, and was never heard to blow his own trumpet.

Another East Indian worthy—Mr. D. Panioty of Government House, Calcutta, must not be omitted from the category of names of prominent officers of the period. He, too, commenced his service in a subordinate capacity, which began, if I remember aright, from the time when Lord Dalhousie was Governor-General. Mr. Panioty rose to the position of Registrar of the Private Secretary's Office. With a change of Viceroyalty after every five years, and consequently of the Private Secretary, Mr. Panioty's work was like that of Sisyphus. Just as his work terminated at the end of five years, he had to commence work again on every sixth year. Mr. Panioty's connection with Government House for nearly half a century is an epochical period in Indian History. To name him would be to bring to our mind associations of eventful times. The prophecy of the great Runjeet Singh (when the map of India was placed before him, the meaning of the colours red, blue, green, &c., indicating territories dotted therein was explained to him, he exclaimed *sub lul ho jaga*—all will become red) has now been fulfilled to a considerable extent. The annexation of Oudh, Nagpore, Burmah, &c., the dark days of the Sepoy Mutiny, the glorious achievement (the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi &c of Lord Lytton) the various chapters, durbars levees and parties, receptions in Government House are all great works in which Mr. Panioty had to take some part in the quick disposal of business with a tact and intelligence which are beyond all praise. All who come in contact with him are pleased with his courteous behaviour. He was for some years past promoted to the dignified post of Assistant Private Secretary, which is a gazetted appointment, as proof of the high estimation in which he has been held by all the successive Viceroys. It is said, that the French cook of the late Duke of Wellington resigned the post, because the Iron Duke never at any time rebuked nor praised him, and the cook imagined that, notwithstanding the best dishes that he prepared for the Duke's table, it was a sign of disapprobation when nothing was said either way. But such silence won't do in the Viceregal House either way. Mr. Panioty earned the approba-

tion of every successive Viceroy. This is no small praise, considering that Mr. Panioty has had to serve so many masters. It is no small praise when I say that Mr. Belchambers earned the approbation of every Chief Justice, and Mr. Panioty of every Viceroy during the eventful and historic period of nearly half a century. Of all East Indian officers, whom I have named in my previous letters, these two worthies have had to meet the wishes of the public, and in their honest endeavours to please them in matters relating to their official duties—one as an officer of the highest Court and the other as an official of Government House—they are held in high estimation.

The East Indian community of Calcutta are sadly in need of a local habitation by way of an Institute—such as the E. I. Railway Company have got for its European and East Indian servants in places where its workshops are situated. An Institute may be built of the same design as the Volunteer Headquarters on the Maidan. A plot of land near its site might be obtained from Government for this purpose. It does not require large outlay. I think Rs. 50,000, or perhaps less, would suffice, and such a sum may be easily subscribed by the well-to-do members of the East Indian community of Calcutta. A place like this, with newspapers, periodicals and books, with a billiard table, would attract many for innocent amusement. There should be no sectarian difference, and all of the East Indian fraternity—white, black or neutral tint, provided they are decently dressed and of good manners—should be allowed to resort there from sunrise to 10 P.M. Occasional readings and lectures by philanthropic gentlemen might be given. The Hall or Institute might be so built as to be converted into an occasional ball-room on parties applying for its use previously, and provided always that tea, coffee and light refreshment, but without *wines*, are served on such occasions. This seems to me a great desideratum; and it behoves those interested in the welfare of this community, to take up my suggestion in right earnest. Such an Institute will afford ample room for placing the portraits

in oil of the eminent men of the East Indian community of the past or the generation that is passing away. Let it not be said that they are wanting in *esprit de corps*, as it has hitherto been apparent from their singular indifference and apathy in honoring such of their great men as are either dead, or those who have retired, or are about to retire, from Government or other services. The foundation of a hall or Institute, as I propose, is now an imperative necessity, as I see that this community have resolved to form a permanent Association to watch their interests.

The great problem of the day is to improve the educational and social status of the East Indians. It should be the object of the Association to help the indigent and deserving students to prosecute their studies so as to qualify them for legal, medical, mechanical, engineering and other professions. In fact the young men should be able to compete with the Indians. What a pity it is, that Mr. Belchambers did not in early life pass the examination of vakils; and had he done so he would now be seated on the Bench of the High Court.—*Indian Daily News*, 6th August 1892.

V.

INSTANCES are not wanting in which the virtues or merits of the elder brother are visited on the younger. It is fortunate when they both live to see each other's prosperity in the service of the Government which they happen to serve at the same time. It is the Turk only "Who could have no brother near the throne."

Not many years have passed, the country and the Viceroy's Cabinet enjoyed the advantages of the sterling abilities and joint-counsel of the Strachey brothers—one of the Military and the other of the Civil Service. With a Government not quite so strong as that under the Viceroyalty of Lord Dalhousie or Lord Canning, the administration, which was under the potent influence of the Strachey brothers, passed for Strachey *regime* at the time. The genius of the two brothers stamped all measures, whether relating to Politics, Public Works, Home or Financial. Neither the country nor the Government suffered from their influence. If I be permitted to compare great things with

small, I would give another instance. The Government, at least in one department, had the benefit of the service of the Kellner brothers in the humble ranks of the East Indian Uncovenanted Service. I have already briefly alluded to them. Mr. George Hill was a tall East Indian, better known in the pre-Mutiny period as the one-legged Registrar, who was a big gun in the Military Accounts Branch under the Accountant-General of India. Mr. R. Walker, a mild old Civilian, paid this East Indian such respect for his great pretensions, that, if he had at any time occasion to send for him, he used to tell his orderly peon to see if the old Registrar were in good humour. The Government ere this incurred heavy expenditure, and there were enormous inefficient balances, which were chronic owing to the Punjab war and other expeditions during Lord Hardinge's administration. Mr. (afterward Sir) George Kellner and his brother Mr. Edwin Kellner of the same office, displayed their aptitude for business, and helped in the speedy disposal of accumulated arrears when a new covenanted officer, Mr. C. Hugh Lushington, relieved the good-natured Mr. Walker. The vigorous measures which the Accountant-General adopted with the aid of the Kellner brothers, dispelled the charm with which the affairs of that stupendous office were shrouded under the old *regime*. An incident only prompted Mr. Lushington to look into things with his own eyes, instead of through the spectacles of the old Registrar, who, perhaps, thought that his age commanded respect; and forgetting his position as an East Indian, he accosted Mr. Lushington, saying "Good morning Mr. Lushington" at the first meeting.

Mr. Lushington, proud of his descent from the Chairman of the Court of Directors of the time, and as a member of the Civil Service, could not brook this impertinent conduct on the part of a subordinate. He found he was inefficient, and compelled him to retire. The brothers Kellner, freed from the incubus, proved that when left to themselves, they were equal to any exigency in the Department of Accounts. Both these brothers were transferred on promotion to the Financial

Department when Mr. Lushington became Financial Secretary. George Kellner, as I have observed, was employed on special duty in bringing into order the accounts of Military offices in all Presidencies, and such was the reputation which he established for himself, that wherever and in whatever department, the accounts were in chaos, he was sure to be deputed, and he succeeded well. He never shirked any work, however irksome. I believe he took furlough once during his service. After sojourning here and there, and discharging this and that special duty, he was promoted to the office of Military Accountant-General, a department which was his special *forte*. He retired, as I have already said, with honours from Her Majesty's Government which only two East Indians received—Sir George Kellner in the Civil Department, and Col. James Skinner for Military valour.

Sir George Kellner was of tall stature. From his forehead and general appearance one would mistake him for a military officer. During his official career, he was in constant personal communication with military officers whose accounts were adjusted in the office in which he presided. He and Mr. K. M. Chatterjee, who, as I have already stated, rose simultaneously to the dignity of holding gazetted offices, and enjoyed the rare privilege of sitting at the same dinner-table with high officers of Government, Civil and Military.

Mr. Edwin Kellner followed close on the heels of his brother, and rose in the official ladder in the Civil Accounts Department, carrying the same emoluments as were enjoyed by his brother. To praise one would be to praise the other. Sir George Kellner always took great interest in the welfare of the East Indian community, and Mr. Edwin Kellner keenly feels for it.

I have briefly alluded to Mr. Madge of the Calcutta Mint. His brother, Mr. David Madge, was no less conspicuous in the service of Government. He entered the old Military Board at the age of thirteen—a thing not uncommon in those days—and afterwards joined the Board of Revenue where, from a small beginning, he rose to the position of Superintendent. His wise and able management of such a large office obtained for him

the approbation of the members of the Board whom he represented at the salt and opium sales, which involved great responsibility and trust. He retired on pension after long service, and died in June 1890 at the age of eighty. He was held in great esteem by his community. He was an Honorary Magistrate. He was a quiet person and did not lend his name to agitation of grievances, real or imaginary, of the aspiring East Indians. His motto in life was "do your duty and reward will follow as a matter of course."

Wale Byrne was an East Indian whose official career commenced in the early part of the present century in the late Military Board, and afterwards he obtained the post of senior Uncovenanted Assistant to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal. He once acted as Deputy Collector of Calcutta. He took great interest in the Doveton College, which has a few scholarships named after him.

Andrew D'Cruze, whom I have named among Registrars, was very useful to the Secretary in the Home Department of the Government of India. His name must be associated with the enlightened policy adopted by Government with regard to higher education of the Indians. All the measures which followed the historic Educational Despatch of 1854, the expansion of the railway system, the construction of telegraph lines, cheap postage &c., bear testimony to the intelligent help which Andrew D'Cruze rendered to the Home Secretary, assisted by his juniors, Bathie and H. Andrews. The work of the Home Department was very heavy during Lord Dalhousie's administration, and the creation of the Public Works Secretariat became an absolute necessity. On its formation H. Andrews was selected to assist the new P. W. Secretary as Head Uncovenanted Assistant. To his credit it should be stated, that with his former experience in the Home Department he was soon able to form a well-organised department, which on the first start was called upon to undertake gigantic schemes, not only relating to railways but also other public works of great magnitude. This new

department had to make up the accumulated shortcomings of ages in the direction of roads, bridges, canals, railway, &c. Andrews' name must be associated with the proud and stately office buildings which have added considerably to the beauty of the City of Palaces. As an useful member of the East Indian community, and as one taking a lively interest in their welfare, his services are much valued.

As a remarkable East Indian of the period, the name of L. V. Derozio, as a poet and instructor of Indian youth, is conspicuous. His pupils were the great Raja Ram Mohun Roy, the reformer, Rev. K. M. Banerjee, the great English scholar and the first Indian Apostle, whose life was devoted to spreading Gospel Truth among the heathens, Baboo Ram Gopal Ghose, the prince of Indian merchants, who opened direct communication with mercantile houses in England, and Dukhena Runjun Mookerjee who, for his devotion and loyalty during the Sepoy Mutiny, obtained jagheers in Oudh and the title of Rajah from Lord Canning's Government.

Derozio—born 1809—died 1831—was one of the masters of the Hindu College. He is author of the "Fakcer of Jungheera" and other poems. The following sonnet to the students at the Hindu College may be read with interest by the East Indian youth. He gave vent to his poetic genius in his youth as he was only 22 years old when he died :—

"Expanding, like the petals of young flowers,
I watch the gentle opening of your minds,
And the sweet loosening of the spell that binds
Your intellectual energies and powers,
That stretch (like young birds in soft summer hours)
Their wings to try their strength. O! how the winds
Of circumstance, and freshening April showers
Of early knowledge, and unnumbered kinds
Of new perceptions shed their influence;
And how you worship Truth's omnipotence!
What joyance rains upon me, when I see
Fame, in the mirror of futurity,
Wearing the chaplets you are yet to gain—
And then I feel I have not lived in vain."

The history of the East Indians is divisible into three epochs. Those whom I have mentioned belong to the second period as immediate descendants of the founders of the East Indian Society. The first period relates to those who were proud of their immediate birth by European fathers and Indian mothers—chiefly Mahommedans. The present or the rising generation may fairly be assumed to be either grandsons of the original founders, or in some cases great-grandsons. Those who belong to the second period had to build their own fortunes. The adventitious circumstance of high parentage from the father did not give them the advantage which it was the privilege of the founders to enjoy. 16,436

A few instances of the first period may not be out of place.

James Kyd, son of Colonel Kyd, Military Secretary to Government, was born in 1786. He was sent to England with his brother to receive education in ship-building. On his return he was apprenticed to the E. I. Company's Master Builder. He was in a position to purchase the dockyard at Kidderpore. James Kyd was a very enterprising East Indian. He succeeded to the post of Ship builder to the E. I. Company. He built a ship which he named after his father, General Kyd, in which he sailed for England. In Mr. Kyd's dock several other vessels were built. His was the first line-of-battleship ever built in Calcutta. He died in 1836. He was an extraordinary East Indian.

J. W. Ricketts was the son of Ensign Ricketts of the Bengal Engineers. He was born about 1791, received his education in the Orphanage School at Kidderpore, and took service at the age of seventeen in the E. I. Company's service, and sailed to the British settlement at Bencoolen. He returned to Calcutta after five years and took service in the Board of Revenue, where he rose to the post of Deputy Registrar. In this position he was very useful, as he was a remarkable man for his ready pen. He was one of the promoters of the old Parental, now Doveton

College. He was deputed as agent of the East Indians for representing their grievances to the British Parliament in 1830. On his return he resumed charge of his duties in the Board, but soon after he obtained the appointment of Sudder Ala (Sub Judge) of Gya. He did not live long to enjoy the honours. He died at the age of 43, in July 1835, and was buried in the old Gya cometary at the foot of the Ramsela Hill. Mr. Ricketts was a literateur, and contributed several thoughtful articles in the journals of the period. He was also known as the founder of an educational institution and as a patriot in the cause of his community. By his unselfishness in representing their rights before the House of Commons he has left behind a reputation and a name of which his race should always be proud.

Captain John Doveton is said to belong to the family of Doveton who served in the campaigns in Afghanistan, Mysore and Central India. He was educated in a charity school in Madras, and one of his uncles hunted out the poor boy and obtained for him a commission in the army of the Nizam of Hyderabad: and here John rose to the rank of Captain. The kind uncle on his death left by his will a large fortune to his nephew, who on receipt of this windfall left the Nizam's service and retired to London, where he died in 1858. This kind-hearted Eurasian captain, having felt the misery and want such as was the case with many of his race of the time, who were left unprovided by their English fathers, felt a deep sympathy for his brethren and bequeathed his entire fortune of nearly five lakhs of rupees for the education of the Eurasian boys of Calcutta and Madras. A moiety of this legacy was devoted to the Parental Academy, which is now called Doveton College. To this college and the Martiniere, the Eurasian boys have to look for their education. Present and future generations of East Indians owe a debt of immense and endless gratitude to Captain Doveton and General Martin. The last amassed a large fortune under the Oudh Dynasty which he has given away with a large and liberal heart for the benefit of his race.

VI.

It should be recorded in the history of the Bengal Uncovenanted Service, that three of its East Indian members were elevated to the rank of Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, in the Financial Department, *viz.*, Mr. R. H. Hollingberry, as Principal Assistant Secretary on a salary of Rs. 1,500 rising to Rs. 2,000, and Messrs. J. E. Cooke and R. A. Fink, successively, as Assistant Secretary on salaries of Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000. The two latter were transferred to gazetted appointments in the Accounts Department, and their places in the Finance Secretariat do not appear to have been filled up. Before Mr. Hollingberry joined the Financial Secretariat, Mr. Thomas Peachey, an Englishman, I think, a member of the Madras Uncovenanted Service, was brought from that Presidency and first posted as Head Uncovenanted Assistant to the Financial Secretary, and he is said to have helped greatly in reorganizing the Financial Secretary's Office on a very liberal scale of pay, a change which was considered necessary for the preparation of finance returns and statements on the basis suggested by Mr. James Wilson, the first Finance Minister, for the annual Budget Speech before the Imperial Council.

Mr. Thomas Peachey was the first Principal Assistant Secretary who was succeeded by Mr. Hollingberry, and the latter continued to fill that post immensely to his credit after the former's retirement on pension. No other member of the Uncovenanted Service—whether European or East Indian—was promoted to the post. The posts of Principal Assistant Secretary and Assistant Secretary have since merged into a Deputy Secretaryship held by a member of the Covenanted Civil Service. In the Bengal Secretariat the post of Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal was created, and the Registrar of that office, Mr. Thomas Jones, was the lucky incumbent. On his joining the Bar he was appointed a Judge of the Calcutta

Court of Small Causes. Now all these appointments which seemed to have been in the way of the Uncovenanted Service—East Indian or Indian—are now closed.

This is matter for speculation. Have those, who were so elevated, been found wanting? It may be, for aught I can say, that the office of Under Secretary or Assistant Secretary requires administrative ability or qualifications which can only be acquired by a few years' life in the Mofussil, either as Joint Magistrate or as Assistant Magistrate, and that purely desk experience is not enough for such posts. Or, it may be, that whenever the Senior-Secretary is unable to wait upon the Viceroy or to attend the Council Chamber, the next Covenanted Officer in the Secretariat has to do this duty in his absence; and it was perhaps found to be inconvenient to ask the Uncovenanted Principal or Assistant Secretary to supply the place of the Secretary on such occasions. For similar reasons, I suppose the changed policy as regards the Assistant Secretaryship in Bengal has been adopted. The old Conservative policy of confining such superior gazetted posts among members of the Civil Service only has not been disturbed, even for a time, in the Home or Foreign Department. The P. W. Department had for some years an Assistant Secretary in the person of Mr. Sampson, an English gentleman of high qualification, but no East Indian or European Uncovenanted has been appointed ever since.

In the recital of the names of a few East Indian worthies in my previous communications, I had to recall from memory alone; and I am now upbraided by the ghosts of others of more or less repute, reminding me of my duty when I have once disturbed their rest from everlasting sleep. It is useless to tell these phantoms that,—

“ Men's evil manners live in brass,
Their virtues we write in water.”

However, I thought only of persons in departments and offices, which by their unlimited expending power, had reduced the State in critical times to such straits that it had to borrow

money from the public. With what object else were the Military, Public Works, Home, Foreign and even the Financial Department of the Government of India organized? Have not these great departments sanctioned vast expenditure of money from year's end to year's end? Have I not praised the East Indian worthies who had witnessed or who had been the medium through whose hands money slipped out, of course, for purposes of the State? But the Board of Revenue, has been and is always, the milch cow. Lord Dalhousie's pruning-knife was unsparingly used for the demolition of all Boards, but it did not touch the Board of Revenue, the only Conservative relic of John Company's administration. The Revenue Board is the consolidated and concentrated wisdom of very able Civilians of olden time. It is not the good fortune of many to possess the varied abilities and intellectual calibre of men like Ricketts, Stainforth, Dampier and Grote. It is the East Indian Superintendent, Registrar or Head Assistant (by whatever designation you may call him) who is the living wisdom and representative of the collective experience of the great men who were members of the Board. To say that such an East Indian served in that capacity for a period of thirty, or perhaps forty years, implies that such a person is a great savant in helping the solution of the Revenue problems (land, abkaree, opium, salt customs, stamp, income tax, &c.) which crop up from time to time, and he is called upon to give the benefit of his experience with a cart-load of rules, regulations and precedents, to enable the Members to form a correct judgment. Mr. David's long service in the Board as Superintendent naturally associates the memory with many able Civilians who were either Members or Secretaries. This eminent East Indian has left his mark in that office. The Board's manual and voluminous circulars for the guidance of Revenue Officers and District Collectors, bear an impress of that officer's genius. Doubtless he was assisted by his subordinates. If it were not for the Conservative policy which has been rigidly observed from remote times, Mr. David and Mr. Jones would have been elevated to the

post of Junior Secretary of the Board. David and Jones are certainly to be remembered as East Indian worthies of olden time.

Nor must I omit to mention the name of Mr. George Madge, as Foreman of H. M.'s Mint. This post is one of peculiar difficulty. As foreman of the complicated machinery of the Calcutta Mint, it was not an easy task to satisfy such eminent Mint Masters as Colonel Forbes, Colonel Baird Smith and their successors. It is no light praise, when I say, that old Mr. Madge acquitted himself with credit and honour. It is not difficult to find East Indians of ability to preside over a counter, or to compile figures for the statements of ways and means for the Financial Secretary, or the Financial member of Council; but where do we find ability in an East Indian of the present, or even bygone days, to cope with the anxious and arduous toils in connection with the largest mint in the empire. Mr. Madge proved himself very useful, and is a model for imitation by the rising generation.

Messrs. Thomas and Wale Bryne, both eminent East Indians of the Commissariat Department, deserve mention. They were distinguished for their services in the management of the offices of the Commissary General and Commissariat Accounts Departments during the eventful and critical period of the Sepoy Mutiny. All Commissariat stores—rations, bedding, clothing, &c., had to be sent up to the Upper Provinces for consumption by the army in field, camp and barracks. To say they obtained the approbation of that able officer, Col. Ramsay, at the head of the Commissariat Department, is no light praise. Mr. J. O. N. James, an East Indian distinguished himself as Assistant Surveyor-General—a post in which he had displayed his knowledge as a practical mathematician. It is needless to say anything in detail of the valuable services rendered by the East Indian worthies,—Ricketts, Kyd, Skinner, Pate, Doveton and Forester, as their biographical sketches have already appeared in the *Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Recorder*, and doubtless their author will now think of them in the form of a book.—*Indian Daily News*, 16th August 1892.

VII.

GEORGE GALLOWAY, one of the earliest Registrars of the Financial Department, claimed his direct descent from a Chairman of the Court of Directors of the East India Company. He was proud of his position, but retired in the bitterness of grief that he did not rise higher on the official ladder. He had the consolation however of seeing his son rise to the position of a Captain in H. M.'s Army.

J. W. Twalling, from humble beginnings, rose to the post of Registrar in the Financial Department. He was a quiet sort of person, and much confidence was reposed in him, specially in connection with the loan operations of Government. He proved true to his trust, and this is a feather in the hat of the old East Indian Service. The temptation in such a position is too great to resist,—so much so that Mr. Prendergast, a civilian of Madras, speculated on receipt of confidential announcement of the intention of Government to pay off the Tanjore Bonds: and this betrayal of confidence cost him his appointment.

Brothers Fink.—The eldest, R. A. Fink, after meritorious service in a Divisional Commissioner's Office, was introduced in the Financial Secretary's Office as an assistant below the rank of Registrar. In this position he succeeded in giving satisfaction. He rose to the position of Assistant Secretary, and afterwards was transferred as Deputy Accountant-General, Punjab, where an officer trained in redtapeism and versed in the procedure of a circumlocution office does not find much favour, either with the proud races or the haughty officers of a non-regulation province. He was, therefore, retransferred to the Treasury from which he retired on pension. He did not interfere with the claims or promotion of Indian Assistants. His second brother, W. C. Fink, rose to the position of

Registrar, and died in harness. He was a good Christian, and a thoughtful writer. One of his brothers was an attorney of the High Court, and in his professional capacity he was a friend to the poor of the Jewish fraternity. He died prematurely just at the moment he was thriving in his business. The senior Fink has two sons—E. J. Fink is a rising attorney, and his brother is Assistant Registrar of the High Court.

F. H. Reily, as Dacoity Commissioner, distinguished himself highly. He was possessed of the rare quality of scenting out the secret haunts of robbers, and times without number he outwitted them. The reports published by Government of his successful operations bear testimony to his merits. He is an honour to the old East Indian Service, in a direction which was at no time entrusted to any but a qualified military officer. The facility, which the Mahomedan Government of Oudh offered for the reception of robbers or dacoits with their booties from British territory, was a great obstacle in hunting them out. The work, since the annexation of Oudh in this direction, was comparatively easy, and the administrative difficulty from which the tranquil provinces under the British Raj suffered for a long time, has now been happily removed. It was left to the genius of Lord Dalhousie to wipe out this blot.

J. E. Cooke, an officer of the Finance and Account Department, rose to the position of Assistant Secretary. Possessed of energies and tact for overcoming difficulties, he succeeded in the expansion of the Printing Department, and in the proper distribution of work in the newly reorganized Financial Department. As he had nothing higher to look up to, he was transferred to the post of Deputy Accountant-General, Bengal. He made the Bengal office a model useful office, and when his reputation is once established, he has to lament, like Sir Walter, that there is no rest for him, but in his grave. Like Sir George Kellner, he has been employed as Inspector of Provincial Account Offices, which have reached close to the model offices in the Treasury buildings here, through his singular exertion

and devotion at great personal discomfort. His removal from the Presidency has rather told prejudicially against the interests of the poor East Indians, as he proved to be their staunch friend, in introducing and promoting East Indian young men in the offices and departments where he happened to have any personal influence. Well may the East Indian community honour him with a portrait.

A. B. D. Gomes, as Soonderbund Commissioner, has earned a good reputation. The speedy clearance of jungles by his mild and wise application of the rules for the grant of lots has converted the jungles into fertile lands, and the owners of such properties are now reaping rich harvests. His name is associated with their present prosperity.

N. Chick was a man of good literary reputation. He edited for some years a daily paper called the *Indian Times* an East Indian enterprise: but it was a mere "nine days' wonder." His career was partly in Government service, and latterly as the License officer on the introduction of Trade and Hackney carriage license in the Calcutta Municipality. It was no light work for Chick to introduce such a novel measure in a populous city like Calcutta, and his success secured the approbation of the Chairman of the Corporation. It is said, that he was of great help with his pen in drafting elaborate administration and other reports on many important subjects which engaged the attention of the Corporation. In the early days of the British Indian Association, he is said to have assisted in drafting memorials and petitions on many important measures. With all his abilities, he had the misfortune of being a rolling stone.

Old Sutherland was the Registrar of the late Military Board from its earliest days. All the important functions of a member of Public Works, Commissary-General, Inspector-General of Ordnance, the care and supervision of arsenal stores, powder magazines, &c., devolved on that body. This East Indian was an extraordinary man and was held in great esteem by the members of the Board for his wise counsel in all grave and

momentous questions. The Indian Empire engaged the serious attention of that much abused body, and at no time was the strain so greatly felt as during the Afghan and Punjab Wars. It is no small praise, when it is known that the great army, for their supplies of rations, bedding, clothing and camp equipages, for regiments English and Sepoy in barrack, camp and on the field, during those eventful periods, had to depend entirely on the wisdom of the Board. The name of the chief old East Indian Registrar must be associated in this connection, What a sad thing it is, that young Sutherland, who after passing the competitive Civil Service examination in England, died in the prime of life after joining the service only for a short time. One member of this family has rendered valuable service to the legal profession by his publications of Law Reports and Law Journals.

Old Kirkpatrick was a highly estimable Registrar of the late Sudder Dewanny Adawlut. His knowledge of the regulations, and Mahomedan and Hindoo Laws, was very reputable. He was a great help to the Civilian Judges of olden times. It is said that his retentive memory in citing precedents was something wonderful. It is no light compliment to his memory to say, that old Prasanno Coomar Tagore, who himself a giant of his time in legal knowledge, held old Kirkpatrick in high esteem for his legal knowledge, and he would have been equally successful in life like him as a vakil, if he had passed the Committee's law examination.

Old Bridgnell, whom I have mentioned in his relation to the Calcutta Mint, is said to have contributed a valuable note in which he convinced the Mint authorities of the time that a paper currency by Government would result in large profits. On the introduction of Paper Currency he officiated as Assistant Commissioner of Paper Currency, and the substantive post was withheld from him, as it was reserved for European enrolled officers. An exception was made in favour of old Greenway afterwards.

Old Heysham, as Deputy Collector, is remembered as having commenced and concluded the survey and measurement of Calcutta and Punchannagram.

The landscape in the East Indian horizon finds relief in having at present Barristers-at-Law in the persons of Gregory, Sutherland, Bonnaud, Mendes, Andrews, and perhaps, a few others. In medicine young Panioty, who completed his medical studies in England, is now in charge of the Chandney Hospital. It is no small credit that is due to their governors for spending money for their professional education; and the East Indian community should be proud of them for venturing in fields untrodden by their ancestors. Young Manuel, Obick and Fink, as attorneys of the High Court, deserve special mention. They have gone beyond the path of their brethren—the be-all and end-all of whose ambition has been and still is to covet the envious posts of Registrars in public offices.—*Indian Daily News*, 17th August 1892.

VIII.

It will, perhaps, not be uninteresting to see for a moment what combination or force of circumstances or events gave birth to a new policy in the administration. In Lord Dalhousie's model province of the Punjab, the new administrative staff, whether civil, military or uncovenanted, was on a scale of pay less than in the older provinces. That keen-sighted statesman, after a few years' trial of his scheme, was convinced that the hitherto much-neglected Uncovenanted Service, whether composed of East Indians or purely Indians, was capable of conducting the affairs of the newly acquired province in certain departments. The salaries of Accountant-General and Civil Auditor of the Punjab were fixed respectively at Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,000, if I remember right, and officers from the Uncovenanted Service were first appointed to these new posts. Looking to the success of the experiment, His Lordship was determined to introduce the same cheap agency in Bengal and elsewhere.

I have already shown that the golden age of the East Indians in departments, which are not filled up by men after examination prescribed for other departments, was ushered in with the appointment of Sir George Kellner to a superior gazetted post, and afterwards of other East Indians. I have exhibited one side of the shield, but please look at the other side also.

To the liberal policy of Lord Dalhousie for encouraging Indians, is due the appointment of the first Indian—Baboo Prosunno Coomar Tagore—as Clerk Assistant of the newly organised Legislative Council. It was to utilize his knowledge of Hindoo and Mahommedan law, that this prince of the legal profession of the time was thus honoured, and who accepted this post of honour, not so much for lucre, as for the compliment paid to him by the Supreme Government. The income from his vast estates, now enjoyed by Maharajah Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, was enough to deter that legal celebrity from accepting any post. I mention this fact, lest he be confounded with other seekers for Government service.

The first Presidency Magistrate was Baboo Hurro Chunder Ghose. The first Indian Assistant Collector of Customs, Calcutta, was Baboo Nogendro Nath Tagore, a son of the well-known Baboo Dwarka Nath Tagore,—the second person after Rajah Ram Mohun Roy, who visited England, and who made a great noise there and on the continent by his princely and sumptuous dinners. Baboo Dwarka Nath Tagore took with him two Bengalee medical students who studied medicine in London. One of them, Dr. Bhola Nath Bose was employed as medical officer or rather Civil Surgeon, and held medical charge of several districts in Bengal. To the memory of Dr. Bose, it may be added, that he died childless, and bequeathed his whole estate, about two lakhs of rupees, for the establishment of a charitable dispensary and school in the village where he was born. The bequest is in the hands of Government.

Mr. W. P. Palmer, (of the Covenanted Civil Service,) a son of Mr. John Palmer of the princely mercantile house, Palmer

and Co., held the post of Civil Auditor of Bengal, whose duty was, after strict scrutiny, to pass and sign the encasement order on every bill before payment at the Treasuries in Bengal, whether it was the salary bill of the Governor-General or of the lowest menial, whether it was a bill for a fluctuating charge of large amount, or a contingent bill for a small sum for oil and country stationery, all bore the fiat of that functionary, before they could be valid instruments. The work became formidable with the growth of the Empire, and consequent increase of new appointments, officers and departments. That poor functionary—the Civil Auditor—was an important factor in the administrative machinery, not a single rupee could be drawn from any Treasury without his pass, and such was the strain that he had to work incessantly at his desk without respite for the first fifteen days of every month,—because pay was not issued in those olden times to any officer before the 15th of a month. That officer represented to the Government of India that he was unable to cope with the work of an Audit Office without the help of a gazetted assistant, with power to sign the encasement orders. The proposition was sanctioned. Now the question arose who was to be nominated to the newly created post. Mr. Palmer recommended his principal Indian assistant, Baboo Khetter Mohun Chatterjee, who was one of the brilliant earliest fruits of Dr. Duff's Missionary School. In his subordinate capacity as audit clerk he was very useful; he was a great referee. In those days at the port of embarkation or departure on leave, every officer from the Punjab, N.-W. P. and Bengal, had to make up his salary and absentee allowance account in that office. Khetter Mohun's experience and intelligence were known to all officers of the Civil Service, and of the military officers in civil employ. This Indian officer was better known in those days as "K. M. Chatterjee." This newly-created post of Assistant Civil Auditor was coveted by several deserving East Indians, and among them Mr. George Kellner's claim was prominent. The race was in the running of Chatterjee and Kellner. The traditional policy of the Covenanted Civil Servants in those olden times was to give preference in such a case to the East

Indian ; and Chatterjee lost for a moment his winning chance in the battle that was fought in the Governor-General's Council. Bengal had then been recently made into a separate satrapy, and Sir Frederick Halliday was the first Lieutenant-Governor on the Bengal *masnud*. While the discussion was going on, the sharp and penetrating eye of the Governor-General shirked the responsibility of the selection, by referring the disposal of the post to the Government of Bengal, as it was properly under its patronage. Sir Frederick Halliday, who was personally aware of the harassing nature of the work of an audit office, and the intelligent and valuable help which he and his brother officers in the service and the Government received from him, coupled with his abilities and talents, appointed Khetter Mohun Chatterjee as the first Assistant Civil Auditor, who was afterwards promoted to the Civil Auditorship of the Punjab. This was looked upon as great honour and high appreciation of merit and ability in an Indian. This seemed to have dissatisfied the East Indian officers, who were consoled shortly after on the appointment of Mr. (afterwards Sir) George Kellner as Assistant Accountant-General, India. The door, hitherto closed against the Uncovenanted Service for superior posts held by Civil Servants in the Department of Finance and Accounts, was opened with the appointment of K. M. Chatterjee. This was, therefore, the commencement of the epochical period in the history of the Uncovenanted Service.

Baboo Govind Chunder Dass was the first Indian appointed as Assistant Sub-Treasurer, afterwards Assistant Accountant-General, India and Bombay ; he belonged to the Dutt family known as literary veterans and poets. O. C. Dutt, the poet laureate of the present day, whose early career was in the olden days of the General Treasury, comes from the same Dutt family.

Baboo Shama Churn Dey who claimed his lineage from one of the five favorite servants of the Koolin Brahmins, who migrated and settled during the sovereignty of Raja Bullal Sen in his Raj, was an expert in finance and accounts. He was

blushing unseen amidst huge folios of ledgers, journals and books of the Indian Account Office; he was dragged from official obscurity, and promoted to the post of Assistant Accountant-General and afterwards Deputy Comptroller-General. He was made a Rai Bahadoor on his retirement, for his distinguished services in the Treasury. He was afterwards appointed Vice Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation by the influence of the Commissioners, among whom he had many friends. Rai Shama Churn died in the harness of the Corporation, where he rendered good service.

A writer in the *Indian Mirror*, of the 8rd instant, throws out some hints for improving the condition of the East Indians, and as he confirms my statement, I reproduce so much as refers to two Indians. He says:—"There was one person who was known as Mr. Olinger, an East Indian who was an actor on the stage. To him credit is due for imparting a taste among Indian youths for theatricals. In the Oriental Seminary, between 1850 and 1858, a number of Indian students, who had the advantage of studying Shakespeare's plays under Captain Richardson, got up a theatre which was called the Oriental Theatre, and located in that Seminary. *Othello*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *King Henry IV* and *Julius Caesar* were represented on the boards of this theatre. Mr. Olinger drilled the actors, and some of those plays were so well performed, that the acting attracted the *elite* of Calcutta, both European and Indian. The Chief Justice, Judges of the Supreme Court, members of Council, and Secretaries to the Government of India, were among the audience. I may here name two among other actors, Baboo Preonath Dutt and Baboo (afterwards Rai Bahadoor) Denonath Ghose who acted the parts of Iago and Othello respectively. These two actors were then employed in the Financial Department of the Government of India, and the then Secretary, Mr. Charles Allen, took notice of them and improved their prospects in the office. Preonath Dutt rose to the post of Assistant Comptroller-General and Denonath Ghose as Registrar of the Financial Department."—*Indian Daily News*, 18th August 1892.

IX.

THE Foreign Department of the Government of India is the Viceroy's own department. It is associated with the gradual development of the vast British Indian Empire, from the snowy ranges of the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. It is formed of the geniuses of the best and ablest ruling power. It has to keep a constant watchful eye over the doings of independent sovereigns and feudatory chiefs, through its Political Agents, Residents, and Plenipotentiaries. Its breath can make and unmake Indian chiefs and potentates. It has to keep the sword of Damocles hanging over the heads of chiefs, who are under the healthy dread of behaving themselves properly to the paramount authority. Its responsibility is not divided, as the Viceroy alone supervises its working. The Viceroy is always happy in the selection of his Secretary, not confined among members of the civil service only. It is always refreshing to call to memory such able officers, as Sir Hefry Elliott, Sir G. F. Edmonstone, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Durand, and Sir Charles Aitchison. The department owes its perfection to the inspiration of the great officers who presided over it. In such a Department, the best men, available from East Indian society, have been employed, both in the lower and upper staff. Charles Macleod, Hoff, and Cooke held the post of Chief Uncovenanted Officer, and they were men of the pre-sepoy Mutiny period. It must be said to their honour, that they were honest and reliable men. This, indeed, is a model department, worthy of the Government, and its assistants are treated as gentlemen who are ever ready to start at a moment's notice, wherever the Viceroy might order his Foreign Secretary to accompany him during tour. With newly acquired territories, such as the Punjab and Burmah, Lord Dalhousie could control the affairs of the State from Ootacamund, on the Nilgherry Hills, aided by his Foreign Secretary and Under-Secretary, with a small working staff, composed of East Indian assistants, headed by Charles

Macleod. For months, all important questions from all other Secretariats, left at the Presidency, used to be dealt with there. This is no small praise to Charles Macleod, that he managed as if he were an expert or representative from each department. It is easy to understand how arduous and responsible are the functions of this post, in being a safe guide to a new Secretary, in the matter of precedents and references, for preparing cases for the Viceroy on grave and momentous questions which crop up from time to time. Macleod obtained the approbation and secured the confidence of the officers under whom he served. His name is associated with the most eventful period in Indian History,—a period fraught with diplomatic instructions, which had to be expounded in clear and unmistakable language for the guidance of Political Agents and Residents. Some credit is due to that officer and his followers. The traditional policy of saving this Secretariat from the encroachment of Ghoses, Boses, Mitters, Mookerjees, and *et hoc genus homo*, the outcome of grants-in-aid schools or colleges for Indians, has been rigidly observed, and only choice and good young men, from the best classes of East Indian society, form the working staff of the Foreign Office. One Indian, a relative of Rajah Rammohun Roy, who accompanied him to England, held an appointment there.

Mr. Rostan senior, and the brothers Rostan, held successively the post of Registrar of the General Treasury, Calcutta, almost from its establishment. One or the other was attached to it during the entire period of the East India Company's administration. The last of the line was Assistant sub-Treasurer up to the abolition of the Treasury, and the transfer of the business to the Bank of Bengal. Their names are associated with the loan operations, almost from the first issue of loans. In connection with this, they had direct intercourse with the few Indian capitalists of the earlier period, to whom the measures were interpreted by the East Indian Registrar, in whom great confidence was placed by the Covenanted officers designated as sub-Treasurers. The last sub-Treasurer was Mr. J. I. Harvey,

who, like Mr. Stainforth, his contemporary in the Board of Revenue, served Government for about forty years without ever taking furlough to Europe, or indeed any kind of leave. This circumstance called forth the special notice of Lord Canning, when both the brother Civilians applied for further extension of service, until actually incapacitated by sickness. His Lordship enquired of these officers how they managed to keep their health in an Indian climate, and their reply was—"Temperance and sobriety, my Lord." Mr. Harvey's aptitude for figures was so great, that he himself used to cast the totals in the payment and receipt sheets at the close of every day in a few minutes, at the same time attending to those who went there on business. He was so very punctual himself, and insisted on the same on his establishment, that he fined himself when he happened to be late by a few minutes. His long connection with the Treasury ceased on its abolition. All the Rostans were Mr. Harvey's favourite assistants, and he used to take great interest in promoting the welfare of poor East Indian young men.

Mr. C. R. Wilson, Philological Secretary, at the meeting of the Asiatic Society held on the 3rd August, 1892, read a short note on an old picture of the riverside in the north part of Calcutta. It represented, he said, the Thakur Bari of the Addys, an old family of Calcutta. He should have added also the Mullicks, as very old residents. These belonged to the class of capitalists of very olden times, who had to migrate from one place to another owing to the greed of the Mogul dynasty and of the later Hindoo dynasties. They took shelter under the protection of the East India Company on its first settlement in old Calcutta. They were only too glad to entrust the Company with their hoarded gold and silver, and receive in lieu Company's papers, and they were perfectly satisfied with the interest allowed on the investment. In those olden days, only the officers of the Company, and a few such Indian capitalists, used to take up the loans whenever the Government of the time had occasion for money. Those Mullicks received their little English

education under East Indian teachers, who were greatly trusted. The loan measures, when explained to them by the East Indian Treasury Officer of the period, were adopted by the millionaires—the Mullicks particularly. The old Treasury had a peculiar charm with these men, and they could not digest their dinner until they had made over to the office their entire collections or realizations, when these reached a respectable figure, for investment in Company's paper. The fact of these Mullick millionaires of the olden time having been investors in Company's stocks to the value of a crore of rupees by each family is no wonder. The following extract from the *National Magazine* for August 1891, may be read with interest in this connection :—

“ About the middle of the 10th century, Sanak Adhya, a Bania merchant of great wealth and influence, left his native city, Ayodhya (Oudh), with a large number of relatives and fellow-castemen, to settle in Bengal. He arrived at the Court of Adisura, who welcomed him to his kingdom. The site chosen by Sanak Adhya for his abode was the tongue of land comprised between the old Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers. It was selected with an eye to its great commercial advantages.” “ The descendant of Sanak,” says the same writer, “ at the time of Bullal Sen, was Bullava Adhya, who is said to have possessed the fabulous sum of thirteen crores of *tankhas*. He did true and loyal service to the Vadya Raja, by accommodating him with funds for carrying on his war with the Manipuris ”—“ Long ill-used,” the writer adds, “ the Bania is now a respected gentleman under the British Government. He has distinguished himself by his commanding position in financial transactions. The battle of Plassey was won, and the foundation of the British Empire in India was laid, with Bania's money.” If there is at all any exaggeration in the above quotation, this is certain, that these emigrants who settled in old Calcutta, close to the Company's Factories, were assisted by the early East Indians of respectability and character, whom they regarded as their friends, guides, and philosophers.—*Indian Daily News*, 31st August, 1892.

X.

I am indebted to a very respectable source for the particulars of the following worthies :—

DaCosta started in life as an assistant in the firm of Ashburner and Co., a mercantile firm now defunct, but once of good standing in Calcutta. By steadiness of conduct and dint of hard work, DaCosta attained a position of trust and responsibility, and was ultimately admitted a partner in the firm. He retired from business soon after the mutiny—fortunes in those days being more readily acquired than in these hard times—and is now settled in England. He employs his leisure frequently in the discussion of important Indian questions, and has written several pamphlets on such subjects.

T. GOULD.—The proprietor not long since of what was known as the leading musical instrument business of this city, called Burkinyoung and Co. Gould was taken into the firm as an apprentice from the Calcutta Free School, and had severe struggles against difficulties in the early years of his life. By hard, steady and persevering efforts, he raised himself to the position of a tuner, and ultimately to that of proprietor of the business. He was well known for many years in Calcutta, and earned the respect of the large English firms in the same line of trade that he dealt with. He owned a half share in a Tea Garden in Chittagong at the time of his death.

JOHN LANG.—As Proprietor and Editor of the *Mofussilite* now defunct, was very widely known as a journalist in the N.-W. Provinces. His bold and staunch advocacy of men and measures of his time elicited applause. He took up the cause of Lalla Joteepershad of Agra, the great commissariat contractor of the Punjab and Afghan campaigns, with an earnestness of purpose which induced the authorities to do him justice, so far as it was possible, in the settlement of his accounts, which could

not be made up properly owing to the severe strain on the contractor, and the difficulties encountered by him in furnishing the supplies in times of great difficulties and troubles. Lang's pen was of great service, and his name was a household word among the intelligent people in the N.-W.P. To his memory and to the honour of his journal, it may be said that it commanded the esteem of the non-official and official classes, chiefly military, and the people regarded his paper as a potent organ.

In my first paper I alluded to an Old East Indian teacher who used to go from house to house, teaching the Hindoo boys both of the middle and aristocratic classes. He was known in those times, and is still remembered by the name of Sherburne who, besides a private seminary of his own, was a perepetatic master. A great genius is known to posterity by his literary, scientific or other works; and similarly, an educator of the human race is known by his brilliant pupils. Sherburne's system of education was directed to the attainment of the object which the guardians of the Indian boys pointed out. Education was, therefore, confined how to make money. Accordingly his teaching produced in Calcutta Indian society, merchants, banians, tradesmen, zemindars, stockholders, clerks or *keranis*, school masters, catechists, shopkeepers, &c. The old East Indian was a good Christian, but he abstained from Gospel teaching as a rule. In one family, however, he took up the work of education in a liberal way, and he was left quite free.

I offer the following sketch *in Memorium* of the good work of this eminent East Indian, whose educative influence told with remarkable effect not only on the founder of the family in old Calcutta, but on almost all his descendants. This is my apology for the introduction of this, as it were, photographic group.

The Dutts of Rambagan are well known in Calcutta. Russomoy Dutt, the head of the family, was a very influential man of his time. He received his education from the East Indian teacher, there being no public schools in those days. After serv-

ing as assistant and subsequently as banian in several mercantile houses, he was appointed a Commissioner of the Court of Requests, which designation was afterwards changed to "Judge of the Court of Small Causes." He was the first Indian who was honored by such a high judicial post. The *Friend of India* of the 14th September, 1837, thus noticed his appointment :— "During the past week, Baboo Russomoy Dutt, a native gentleman of Calcutta of great respectability, both of character and talent, has been appointed by Lord Auckland to act as Commissioner in the Court of Requests." The *Asiatic Journal* further stated that "the Baboo received from Lord Auckland a very flattering letter accompanying the appointment." Russomoy Dutt always took great and earnest interest in the cause of education in this country. He was one of the founders of the Hindoo College, and was the Secretary to the Council of Education and of the Sanskrit College. He had a thorough knowledge of English, Persian, Arabic and Sanskrit, in which last language he used to discuss the shastras with the pundits of the Sanskrit College. He was a frequent visitor at Government House, and had invitations from the Honorable Misses Eden to chess tournaments in which he showed great skill. He continued ably to hold the appointment of Judge of the Court of Small Causes till his death in 1854, at the age of 63. In those early times, when the moral atmosphere, whether in official or social circles, was not of the purest, and when public opinion was not quite healthy, it is no small credit to say that Russomoy Dutt was remarkable for his thorough integrity, honesty, and for the simplicity of his life. He kept himself aloof from Hindoo society, and it was absolutely necessary in those days for a judicial officer to remain so during the tenure of his office. He gave his sons a liberal education, towards which his magnificent library, a collection of many thousands of volumes, contributed not a little. He was not popular among Brahmins and orthodox Hindoos as he lived far in advance of his time, though they respected him for his strict principles and ranked him as one of the foremost men of his time.

He left five sons. The eldest, Kissen Chunder, was Dewan of the General Treasury, a very highly-remunerated and coveted post. He knew Latin, French, Sanskrit, and was a good English scholar. He received his early education under the East Indian teacher.

The second, Kylas Chunder, had a most brilliant career as a student of the Hindoo College. He carried off heaps of prizes every year, and attracted public attention by his scholastic success. He served Government as a Deputy Collector and the Superintendent of the Abkazi Department. Subsequently he was appointed Collector of Calcutta on Rs. 1,000 per month. He died in 1859 at the early age of 41.

The third, Govin Chunder, was known as the best writer of English, both prose and poetry, among Indians. His contributions to the journals and periodicals were often mistaken for contributions from the pens of Englishmen. He had a large circle of friends and admirers, Englishmen and Indians. He held respectively, with great credit, the office of a Deputy Magistrate; Deputy Treasurer of the Government Treasury; Treasurer, for a short period; Actuary of the Government Savings Bank; Registrar of the Government Agency; and Assistant Accountant-General in Calcutta, and afterwards at Bombay. He visited England with his wife and two daughters, one of whom Toru, has won a European reputation by her poetical works and a novel written by her in French. She and her sister brought back with them the germs of that fell disease, consumption, to which they succumbed at the early age of 20 and 21 respectively. Their disconsolate father survived them for a short period. He died in 1884.

Hur Chunder, the fourth son, was also in Government employ. He is as educated as the other members of his family. He has not given up his literary labors, and issues now and then small volumes of poems, as also religious tracts and pamphlets. He is the only son of Baboo Russomoy Dutt who

is now alive. For the last 14 years Aroon, the eldest son of Baboo Hur Chunder, has been in England. He is a B. A. of Cambridge and M. B. of the London University. He has married into an English family, and has settled in England. He does not intend returning to this country. He is now Resident Surgeon of the Hospital at Scarborough.

Greece Chunder, the youngest son of Russomoy, after serving Government for some years, retired from service, visited England with his wife, and died several years after his return to India. He was of a retiring habit, and he too published a volume of poems, which received much commendation in England as well as in India. One of his reviewers characterized his poems as "the harvest of a quiet eye."

The last three sons of Russomoy became converts to Christianity with their respective families. The Hindoo community received an electric shock when such a rich, respected and educated family as that of the Dutts of Rambagan, embraced Christianity, without fuss and parade, and in spite of the protests of their numerous Hindoo relatives and friends.

Of the present surviving members of the Dutt family two require some notice. One is Mr. R. C. Dutt, the scion of a collateral branch. He went to England, successfully passed the Competitive Civil Service Examination, and stood third in the list of successful candidates. He is now the Magistrate of Midnapur. His services have been much appreciated by the Government, and he has recently been made a Companion of the most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Mr. R. C. Dutt is not a Christian.

The other is O. C. Dutt. He is the only son of Kylas Chunder. He was Actuary of the Government Savings Bank, Auditor of Regimental Accounts; Vice Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, and, is at present, the Collector of the Corporation. He is a Fellow of the Calcutta University, an

Honorary Magistrate, and a Justice of the Peace. He is well known in Calcutta for his knowledge of the Continental languages,—French, German, and Italian, as well as for his poetical contributions to the periodical literature of the day. Some of the leading journals, including the *Indian Daily News*, have on many occasions admired his productions, and the Editor of the last named journal has dubbed him “the local Laureate.” His spirited translations from the French and German poets were much admired in England.

I must not omit from this notice of the Dutts, the name of Shoshi Chunder Dutt—a very near relation of Russomoy—his nephew. Shoshi Chunder was not much behind his relatives in education and talents. He, too, was a votary of the muses, and has left behind him no less than 30 volumes of his published works—consisting of history, novels, tales, and poetical effusions. He was Registrar in the Bengal Secretariat, and, after enjoying his pension for several years, died in 1886.

Goind Chunder, Hur Chunder, Greece Chunder, and Omesh Chunder (the last better known as O. C. Dutt) had a book of poems published in England, entitled *The Dutt Family Album*, consisting entirely of contributions from their pens, the largest number of the pieces being the composition of O. C. Dutt. This volume attracted much attention both here and in England, was reviewed very favourably, and commanded a good sale. The following extract from a review of the book which appeared in the *Examiner and London Review* will give an idea of its merits:—“The authors of this charming collection of songs and sonnets are Christian natives, of one family, but of different ages and occupations, and their book is the more remarkable, as they have not enjoyed the advantages of an education in England. Wherever their acquaintance with the English language was made, they are to be congratulated on their thorough mastery of its grammar, idioms, and peculiar forms of speech. There is not a line that would indicate that the writers are not English of the English; that they have been thoroughly

Anglicised in style of thought and speech, and that they have skilfully learnt the peculiarities of a foreign tongue, is undeniable. In a modest preface to their poems the authors claim indulgence at the hands of English critics from the aforesaid accidents of foreign birth and education. It was well, perhaps, to make the appeal, but without the least disposition to flatter, we may say that it was entirely unneeded. Dignity of thought, elegance of diction, purity of rhyme and rhythm, are more or less to be found in every poem. There is a tone of religious feeling running through most of the verses, which is the more engaging inasmuch as that it is palpably part and parcel of the writers' sentiments, and not a mere assumption for the purpose of character or style. We agree with the Messrs Dutt that bad poetry is intolerable, and mediocre verse perhaps worse, and that there is a good deal too much of both now written; but there is no need to fear that the 'Dutt Family Album' will be classed among either the one or the other. The Dutt family Album is a book of poems of uncommon excellence, and will be read with pleasure by all who relish genuine poetry."

The Dutt's held the highest and best paid appointments under Government; their talents and their scholarship in English were well known; hence it was a common saying in native society that *Lakshmi* and *Saraswati* (the goddesses of wealth and learning) loved to remain as permanent guests with the Dutt's. And this was true.

The East Indian community may well be proud of the old East Indian teacher, and who can from the above example of education on Christian principles as imparted by the illustrious founder of the Dutt family unaided by missionaries, deny that the honour is due to him, and he has left behind a monument of his labours more durable and lasting than either a "storied urn" or "animated bust."—*Indian Daily News*, 30th September 1892.

XI.

I HAVE alluded to the good work of educating Indians some little time after the establishment of the East India Company's factories in old Calcutta by an eminent East Indian who is remembered by his name as Sherburne. There were one or two missionary schools, but the wealthy and higher class of Indians had strong prejudice against them, and even on the foundation of the old Hindoo College, the last was resorted to by a very small number of boys. This East Indian was a remarkable man who was indefatigable in his labour. He had a seminary of his own to which the middle and humble class of Indian boys used to be sent for education. Sherburne attended boys of wealthy Indians at their respective homes. The education was limited to writing, reading and arithmetic. Anything tending to sap the orthodox and religious instincts of the Hindoos was scrupulously avoided in his teachings. He was, therefore, a favourite teacher of the Mullicks, Seals, Addis, Tagores, and other opulent Hindoos of the period. D'Rozio, whom I have already named in connection with the Hindoo College, gave to Calcutta society some Indian scholars of whom mention has been already made. Just as the tree is known by its fruit, even so is the teacher by his pupils. Sherburne was true to his profession. The outcome of his educative influence was some remarkable good men among the millionaire families of olden times. The eight sons of the millionaire, Nemy Churn Mullick, and Roop Loll of collateral branch, were taught by this old East Indian. Of these, four cut a remarkable figure. Ram Mohun, Ramrutton, Mutty Lall and Ram Gopal were noted for their unbounded charities. Sherburne instilled into their minds the mighty power of the British Government, and that the Company's traders were represented as its agents, and as such they should be trusted. The loyalty, which is a distinguishing feature of the Mullicks, Tagores, &c., was the result of the teaching of this East Indian, and his tutorial staff. Their

buried wealth which lay hidden during the Moghul dynasty was safely entrusted with the East India Company for investment in Company's papers. The lessons of wisdom imparted with fatherly interest by the East Indian have borne fruit, and their descendants up to this day know no other mode of investment of their capital than in Company's paper. The Mullicks have rigidly maintained their reputation as keeping themselves aloof from political agitation, which now and then disturbs the equanimity of Hindoo society.

Ram Mohun commemorated his father's name by building a ghaut near the Mint, and by building temples in different places where poor and needy Hindoos are daily fed. Ramrutton was fond of show and ostentation, so much so that on the marriage of his eldest son with a girl of the old Auddy family, he caused two miles of the Chitpore Road, through which the procession passed, to be sprinkled with rose water, as the streets are now watered by the City Fathers. The sight-seers paid Rs. 30 to 40 as terrace hire for witnessing the procession. This man was extremely extravagant in his charities, and enjoyed the entire monopoly of the salt trade on behalf of the East India Company. Mutty Lall was a quiet religious Hindoo, who built the temple in Mahesh; his worthy son and representative is Baboo Jodoo Lall Mullick, who is known by his endowments and charities, and latterly by his taking up the cause of the rate-payers of Calcutta by vindicating their rights in the High Court against the arbitrary proceedings of the Calcutta Corporation. Roop Lall was in olden times known to European society as owner of the Seven Tanks Villa, where his representatives—Prankissen and Sama Charun—used to entertain the officers and men of European Regiments stationed at Dum-Dum, very frequently. The widow of Prankissen was Rajcoomaree Dasse, who was honored with the title of Ranee by Lord Dufferin's Government for her public acts and charities, notably the building of a beautiful iron shed over Juggernath Ghaut, almost facing the Mint. His Royal Highness the Duke of

Edinburgh was entertained in the Seven Tanks Villa. Among other illustrious pupils were Maharajah Sookmoy Roy who constructed the road and rest houses for pilgrims visiting the Temple of Puri. The ancestor of the amiable Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, was likewise the pupil of Sherburne. Instances may be multiplied, but it is enough to show that it is due to the admirable educative influence of this old East Indian, that so many illustrious Hindoo opulent worthies were the ornaments of Hindoo society in bygone days. It is a pity that no likeness on canvas of this East Indian exists in any family, but his name is cherished in remembrance by the scions of those old families.

The East Indian of olden times was deeply impressed with the idea that he had a divided duty. His success, whether as merchant or agent of the E. I. Company in their commercial concerns or in public offices, or in fact in all trades, callings and professions, he clung like ivy to the Englishmen on the one hand and the Hindoo on the other. Before the accession of Asia Minor in such large numbers as at present in the Bar, the English attorney's help-mate was the East Indian, who in former times was admitted as a partner, and a few years' connection with such an English attorney gave him claim for admission as attorney without any stiff examination. The young East Indian attornies are now a days rarely taken in partnership with English attornies. The East Indian circle is very limited and their success is not so great, as it would otherwise be, if they had either English or Indian attornies as partners. The instances of success of Swinhoe and Laha, Barrow and Sen, Anly and Dhur, Beeby and Rutter may be cited as the fruitful result of combined interest. Beeby was a very pious and honest attorney. He was very much liked by his Hindoo opulent clients, and his connection with the East Indian made him prosper; and there was no drawback in his business owing to such connection. The surviving East Indian member is too old to think of taking any partner either English or Indian attorney. An East Indian,

however old and experienced he may be, does not find favour with Hindoo clients unless he is associated either with an English or Indian attorney.

My young East Indian friends, who are promising attorneys, would do well if they follow the examples of the firms named by me. The East Indian has a prestige, and as he has received his training generally in an English attorney's office, and with his proverbial knack and tact for doing office business with thoroughness and punctuality, he would be of great help to an Indian attorney, who again can, if honest, secure a host of native clients for mutual benefit. The advantage of reciprocity was fully appreciated before, but now times are altered,—each man thinks too much of himself, and this is a fault which is unfortunately too common both among the East Indian and Indian members of the legal profession. Of course there are some exceptions.—*Indian Daily News, 18th October 1892.*

XII.

THE *National Magazine* for October last contains a paper on Sir Auckland Colvin, K.C.M.G., late Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. Whilst almost all the native papers in Lower Bengal have condemned him for his action in quelling the Benares riots, and in the dispersement of the last Hurdwar Mela, it is something that this magazine speaks with unqualified approbation of his administration of those provinces. It is a singular coincidence that the Colvins, father and son belong to the race of Haileybury civilians. That while the father was Lieutenant-Governor, more than thirty years ago; whose lot was cast in the stormy days of a great rebellion, whose incessant toil, and the very anxieties of his position claimed him as their victim, the son was called upon, in course of time, to fill the same important office. Similar good fortune has not been met by any member of the Covenanted Civil Service, whether of the old or the new school. The virtues of the father have been notably visited on the son.

Sir A. Colvin entered the service on the 23rd November, 1858, and was attached to the N.-W. P. First as an assistant Magistrate, then a Settlement officer, afterwards Secretary, Board of Revenue, and Secretary to Government, N.-W. P. After serving in Egypt for five years, he returned to India as Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and as Finance Minister of the Viceroy's Council. It fell to his lot to move the re-imposition of the income tax, and to negotiate the compromise over the Ilbert agitation, that obtained the name of *concordat*. He succeeded Sir Alfred Lyall as Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. Provinces, and his administration ended on the last week of November, 1892. During his career in Egypt he gained that intimate acquaintance with, and innate sympathy for, Islam, that distinguished him conspicuously in later life. When Lord Ripon was about to vacate the Indian Viceroyalty, there appeared in the columns of the *Pioneer* that remarkable paper entitled, "If it is real, what does it mean?" This is generally ascribed to Sir A. Colvin, and which was read with great interest by the public at home and in this country, as a masterly exposition of the political aspect of the country, and in which the author's broad and liberal spirit and interest, with the deepest sympathy with the children of the soil, were expressed in glowing language. He always took the deepest interest in all questions relating to the health and the hygienic conditions, and the sanitation of the cities in his wide domain, and it is during his term of office that the large hospital buildings of Agra, and the waterworks of the cities of Allahabad, Agra, Benares, and Cawnpore, had been inaugurated, and female hospitals had been commenced or completed in nearly every large and important centre of population. He felt a real enthusiasm in the cause of suffering humanity, and infused his own feelings into the members of the medical profession under him. During his five years' rule, the record of the successful efforts that had been made for providing medical aid to the women of India has been singularly brilliant. These are tributes of which any Lieutenant-Governor may be proud. Sir Auckland Colvin

is not one of those who view the appointment of the natives of India to high offices with disfavour. He has appointed several natives to high offices, and occasionally placed districts in charge of statutory civilians, as an experiment untried, till his time, in that part of India.

The cause of local self-government of the educated classes in the N.-W. P. and Oudh, had not made much progress under Sir A. Colvin, though it must be acknowledged that he showed remarkable freedom from prejudice in re-nominating the late Pundit Ajodhyanath, and in appointing Baboo Ram Kali Chowdry, to a seat in the Legislative Council, which was founded during his administration, and so also the University. His council did no work that calls for any particular notice, but University education made great and rapid strides during his rule. Sir A. Colvin stuck to the theory, that social influences, wealth, and aristocratic birth, are the best qualifications for determining the action of Government in the disposal of public appointments.

The writer concludes thus—"By the Anglo-Indian world, Sir A. Colvin would be regarded as a model administrator. He has deviated into no new and striking path; he has given no undue prominence to the children of the soil; he has calmly trodden in the safe grooves of his predecessors; he has upheld the honor of the Civil Service whenever it required to be upheld; he has favoured rank and wealth, done his best to conciliate Mahomedan subjects under his rule, who, as immediate predecessors of the English in the conquest of India, require to be conciliated; he has looked at all things with a practical turn of mind, and has adopted vigorous measures whenever the people showed little signs of unrest and impatience of authority, and, above all, he leaves signs of material prosperity behind him, in the shape of waterworks, hospitals, and sanitary schemes."

Sir Auckland Colvin's name must be associated with the Allahabad University, and the rising and future generations of Hindoos and Moslems will hold his memory in sweet remembrance. We deem it very creditable to the publisher of the

National Magazine, who, as a native gentleman of Bengal, has given expression of the just and right appreciation of the administrative abilities of Sir Auckland Colvin, and has not joined the cry raised against him, at the time of his departure, by the Native Press here, who set at nought the redeeming features of his administration, because of the unfortunate occurrences in Benares and Hurdwar, the two plague-spots of religious fanaticism. Both the Colvins father and son, who sat on the *musnud* of the N.-W. Provinces, will be remembered with grateful feelings by the people there, and we hope the intelligent section will perpetuate the memories of both the father and son with busts placed in the Allahabad University, remembering that—

“ Men's evil manners live in brass ;
Their virtues we write on water.”

—*Indian Daily News*, 12th December 1892.

XIII.

RAI PREM CHAND BURAL, BAHADOOR, is one of the earliest pupils of the old Hindoo College. The late David Hare, and other members of the College Committee, passed him, as having acquired a respectable proficiency in the English language and literature, in the year 1832. He is perhaps the only person of the early batch of students now surviving. The late Reverend K. M. Banerjee and Baboo Ram Gopal Ghose were his fellow-students. Mr. (afterwards Sir) C. E. Trevelyan gave him an appointment in the Board of Revenue. Prem Chand gave up Government Service, and accepted the post of confidential clerk under Mr. Longueville Clark, an eminent barrister, in the olden days of the late Supreme Court, who employed Prem Chand as his interpreter when he defended the Rajah of Pachette in a criminal suit tried by the Commissioner of Burdwan. It is no slight fact in Prem Chand's favour, that Sir Charles Trevelyan wrote to him on his return to Madras as Governor, and

that after an absence of twenty years. Sir Arthur Buller, one of the Puisne Judges of the late Supreme Court, bore testimony to his extremely good character for ability and integrity. Sir Charles Trevelyan, while Finance Minister of the Viceroy's Council, renewed acquaintance with him, and obtained for him, in 1865, the responsible post of Special Sub-registrar of Alipore, taking his place as a member of the Subordinate Executive Service. On Baboo Prem Chand's retirement in 1875, the zemindars and other noblemen of the 24-Pergunnahs, both Hindoos and Mahommedans, presented him with an address in which they bore testimony to his universal courtesy, amiability, and uprightness of manner in the performance of his duties. In 1877, Baboo Prem Chand Bural was appointed a Government Commissioner in the Calcutta Corporation, a Justice of the Peace for the town of Calcutta, and an Honorary Magistrate, and a Magistrate of police, with all powers of a Magistrate of police, Calcutta. He has retired from public service, and though now four-score years, he is in the enjoyment of perfect health. The title of Rai Bahadoor was conferred on him by Lord Lansdowne's government, as a personal distinction, and in recognition of his meritorious services. Rai Prem Chand Bural, Bahadoor, is a self-made man, and though his earliest friends and companions have one by one gone to that 'bourne from whence no traveller returns,' he is an octogenarian, practising acts of virtue and charity in a happy home, surrounded by a large family * * *. The fine old gentleman is to be congratulated as the patriarch of the happy family, and as a highly respectable member of Calcutta society. * . * * *

—*The Empress*, 16th December/1892.

XIV.

THE death is announced of Sir John Peter Grant at the age of eighty-five. He was the oldest Haileybury Civilian. He was born in London in 1807, and entered the Civil Service in 1826. His early years were spent in the N.-W. Provinces, in Revenue, Judicial, and Account Departments. He was Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal when Lord Dalhousie was both Governor of Bengal and Governor-General of India. He was for a time Superintendent, Botanical Gardens, and served as Secretary and Member of Prison Discipline Committee and of India Law Commission. He was Secretary in the Home and Foreign Departments. He was temporarily in charge of the Central Provinces. During the dark days of the Sepoy Mutiny he was a member of the Governor-General's Council, and his colleagues were Messrs. Dorin, Peacock, and General Low. To Lord Canning, Sir John Grant was a very valuable help. The varied abilities, tact and judgment, combined with his unbiassed opinions on all grave questions, and what is more, his kind feeling for the people, marked him as a man suited to the time. From the earliest days of the East India Company, the name of Grant has been a household word. His father, also Sir John Grant, was one of the Judges of the old Supreme Court. The versatile quality of Sir John Grant and his knowledge of details of administration in every department peculiarly fitted him to deal in a masterly way with all difficult problems. No civilian of old or the present time possessed a greater facility in minute writing, with his encyclopaedic knowledge of India. When he was convinced of the soundness of any scheme or measure, he would not rest satisfied until he gained over the opposition. Both Lord Dalhousie and Canning paid great regard to his counsels. Sir Frederick Halliday was the first Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and he was somewhat lavish in the expenditure for furnishing the new house at Belvedere. Perhaps the dignity of the *musnud* of Bengal

required a little display of Oriental grandeur. Sir Halliday, during his early official career, visited the palaces of the old Nawab of Moorshedabad and other Mahomedan grandees. Show and ostentation in the palaces of the ruling authority produce good effect on the people, and hence it was quite proper at the time that Belvedere should assume the aspect of the Mahomedan Nawab's palace of olden times.

The Hon'ble Directors of the East India Company were extremely jealous of extravagant expenditure in the furnishing of a Government House, and on the creation of the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, specified the list of furniture, &c., for Belvedere. Sir Frederick Halliday is said to have departed a little in selecting the quality of the articles, and certain charges were disallowed by the passing authority. The matter had to be referred for orders of the Governor-General in Council. The Governor-General was willing to show every consideration due to the office of the new Lieutenant-Governor, and was disposed to allow the charge. Sir John Peter Grant would not give way, and for his brother civilian, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, he would not make an exception when the charge did not come within the meaning of the despatch of the Court of Directors on the subject. This is a typical case, as at once showing that Sir John Peter Grant was a conscientious man. He was the second Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and his name is remembered to this day as having given peace to Bengal by his judicious settlement of the indigo disputes between ryots and planters. He contributed largely to the promotion of higher education, and took a lively interest in the establishment of the Calcutta University. He was not unmindful of primary education. 'Sir John Peter Grant had literary tastes, and the minutes, such as were published, displayed his ability as a chaste writer. One anecdote may here be cited of his great regard for literary genius in a man who had devoted his life to the education of the Hindoos of Calcutta in olden times.

Captain D. L. Richardson, who was Principal of the old Hindoo College, did not pull well with the Hon'ble Drinkwater Bethune when he was President of the Council of Education. Captain D. L. Richardson was obliged to retire on pension, and returned to England. Sir Peter Grant, on his becoming Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, appointed Captain D. L. Richardson as Professor of the Hindoo College, who, some time after his return to this country, was called upon by the Court of Directors to resign the service, as, from the fact of his being on the invalid pension list, he was precluded from taking service again. Captain Richardson's old antagonists in the Direction of the East India Company brought about this state of things, for which Sir Peter Grant was greatly annoyed. Captain Richardson was helped by his old students with a purse, which enabled him to embark for England. For this instance of the kindly feeling of Sir Peter Grant for the best instructor of Hindoo youth, the second Lieutenant-Governor is cherished in sweet remembrance.

May his soul rest in peace; and the educated people of Bengal are indeed right glad that he enjoyed honorable retirement for 15 years after active service.—*Indian Daily News*, 11th January 1893.

XV.

THE sketches of father Sir Colvin and son Sir Colvin, as Lieutenant-Governors of the North-Western Provinces, and of Sir John Peter Grant, as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, have been included within these series, as they were great friends of the East Indians. In public offices and departments in which they presided as Secretaries to Government, the superior non-gazetted posts were almost exclusively reserved for meritorious and deserving East Indians. These are honoured names which must always be remembered with grateful feelings by the East Indian community.

I have incidentally alluded in Sir John Peter Grant's sketch to the name of Captain David Lister Richardson, who, after he had once retired from the Bengal Education Department, was re-appointed as Professor of Literature in the Hindoo College, but he was obliged to drop his connection for an unhappy dispute with the Hon'ble Mr. Drinkwater Bethune, then law member of the Governor-General's Council. Captain Richardson devoted himself more than a quarter of a century to the education of Indian youths. In the pre-mutiny period, all public offices, schools, colleges and all services—judicial, magisterial, medical, in fact every calling and profession—were filled up with the pupils of that successful teacher. These have almost all disappeared. Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore was a private pupil of D. L. R., who encouraged him in his youthful days to contribute in the literary *Bengal Hurkaru*. The superior value of the education imparted is fully appreciated by the dignified position which the Maharaja now occupies as leader of the Hindoo community.

Captain Richardson, though he was not directly connected with the education of East Indians, still was very kind to them, and selected the best among them in the education staff as his fellow labourers.

Captain Richardson's works—Literary Leaves, Literary Chit Chat, Sonnets and other poems, Lives of the British poets, and Selections from the British and Anglo-Indian Poets, &c., were, before the pre-University period, the favourite studies of both Indian and East Indian students. He was a friend and patron of the East Indian,—Mr. C. Montague,—whom he selected as Professor of History of the Hindoo College. Mr. Montague was a great master of classical history of ancient and modern times. The fluent and elegant language in which he used to deliver his historical lectures made the dry bones of historical facts as pleasing as if his audience was transported through romantic scenes. Mr. Montague left the Hindoo College at the same time with his patron, and he established a school of his

own for East Indian youth. Some of his pupils joined the Electric Telegraph Office, then under organisation by Sir William O'Shaughnessy. Mr. Montague founded a literary society—called Calcutta Atheneum—and at its meetings Captain Richardson used to entertain East Indian young men with his readings from Shakespeare's dramatic plays. It is said that the Hon'ble Mr. (afterwards Lord) T. B. Macaulay, when he heard D. L. R. reading the soliloquy of Hamlet in the Hindoo College class-room, commencing "O, that this too, too solid flesh would melt," complimented him by saying that he may forget India, but he can never forget the sweet reading of D. L. R. He was the most popular teacher of Indian youth, and his criticisms and other contributions to the old *Bengal Hurkaru* won for him a fame and reputation which the reading public would not willingly let die. If stronger Shakespeare felt for man alone, D. L. R. may be said to have felt alone for the Bard of Avon.

The recollections of olden times would be incomplete without some mention of the labours of Captain Richardson, from which the East Indians were also benefitted. Two sonnets and one ode by the East Indian—H. L. V. Derozio—find an honored place in the *Selections* from British poets. This, indeed, is a high compliment, and D. L. R. claims a tribute of respect from the East Indian community, of whom I now take an affectionate farewell.—*Indian Daily News*, 24th January 1893.

HINDU SEA VOYAGE MOVEMENT

AND THE

SUBURNABANIKS OF CALCUTTA, LETTERS BY NO HUMBUG.

REPRINTED FROM INDIAN MIRROR.

I.—A SOLUTION OF SEA VOYAGE PROBLEM.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MIRROR."]

SIR.—I HAVE read with great interest the proceedings of of the Sobha Bazar meeting in connection with the present sea voyage movement. I have noticed with peculiar satisfaction the remark of the amiable Maharajah, Sir Narendrakrishna, Bahadur, "*that the Hindus should take more wholesome food than at present, for a sound diet contributed largely to longevity.*" The italics are mine. The key note of a sea voyage is the "sound diet," which one must adopt both during voyage, and also during residence in England. I wish our knighted Maharajah had been a little more explicit. The words in italics will be understood by our young countrymen, that it means the unorthodox mode of dinners, and while you have times without number advocated vegetable diet, the advice now given will have the contrary effect. It is needless to urge that by travel to England and stay for a few months, it is possible for all to restrict themselves to pure Hindu diet. It is an inherent weakness in our nature that descended as we are from Adam and Eve, we will be after that which is forbidden. Why make us hypocrites? If you impose that the condition of return to home and family and caste privileges would be for England-returned Indians, to declare that they

have observed Hindu diet—it will be to proclaim themselves as great hypocrites. Better far to leave this matter alone. You have had plenty of meetings, plenty of speeches and plenty of pamphlets, no end of Shastric interpretations in support of the movement. All this was not thought of, when it was declared at the last Congress, that the requisite number, required for the Congress to be held in London in 1893, has already been secured. Do you believe for a moment that there will be anything like unanimous resolution on this momentous question affecting our hearths and homes? It is sheer waste of time—

“ And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o’er with the pale of cast of thought,
And enterprises of great pith and moment,
With this regard, their currents turn away,
And lose the name of action”

I say, therefore, when you have resolved to do it, do not hesitate for a moment.

The Rajbati of Sobha Bazar is to the Hindu community of Calcutta what the Popedom is to Christendom. When the noble representative of Sobha Bazar has pronounced his judgment, we should bow to it with all reverence. He has declared that to take what constitutes “healthy food” in a sea voyage and during residence in England should be taken according to each man’s conviction, and no one need fear of losing his caste on his return from sea voyage. Everything will adjust itself. Say, like Caesar—“The die is cast, and all is over.” Mahamohopadhyaya, Mohesh Chunder Nayaratna has declared that there is no injunction in the Shastras against sea voyages, and no Hindu should lose his caste on this score. May I ask our learned Shastric authority who is the custodian of the Hindu Hostel, why has he shut its gates against the admission of Suburnabanik boys as boarders? Does he mean to say that in this matter, he has followed the dictates of Shastras? You, in your paper of 23rd October 1891, remarked on this subject that “*we cannot complain of the harsh conduct of Europeans towards Indians, when we find Brahmins*

and Kayasthas behaving in this fashion towards their countrymen." The italics are mine. Again, the *Hindu Patriot*, the spokesman of Kayasthas, in its issue of 26th October, 1891, stated—"Suburnabaniks justly make it a grievance that although a considerable portion of the funds, subscribed for the Hostel, came from members of their community, their boys are rigidly excluded from sharing the benefits of the institution. This rule must be modified." Now, Sir, when in this home matter there is so much diversity of opinion without any rhyme or reason, how can you expect a satisfactory solution of the question of sea voyage. The bowels, which admit food through the mouth, are not unclean, but it is the mouth itself which is full of venom and spite.

You may take a lesson from the example of the Suburnabanik as regards sea voyage and residence in England, whether for pleasure or for professional study.

Babu Shama Churn Law, brother of Maharajah Durga Churn Law, made, a few years before his death, a voyage to England, and on his return, he was admitted to caste privileges. He was freely admitted into Hindu social and festive entertainments. Dr. Mony Lall Dutt, who, some years ago, went to England for the benefit of his health, was, on his return, publicly entertained by the opulent Mullicks of Jorasanko, and the orthodox and heterodox of their community dined with him after Hindu fashion on marriage and other festivities. Surgeon-Major R. L. Dutt and Surgeon-Major S. C. Nandi have freely been admitted into caste privileges. The last-named Suburnabanik had his daughter married to a young man of his caste, observing the Hindu rites, as usual. The guests all dined together on the occasion.

Mr. M. L. Dutt, at present a member of the bar of the High Court, on his return from England, after passing through the London inns of Court, has been cordially taken back, and is living with his parents, who have not been excommunicated on this score. Not one of these I have named have undergone

the *Pryāschitta* ceremony. Now, these Suburnabanika, although precluded from the benefits of the Mohamohapadhyā's Hindu Hostel, are much in advance, and they have interpreted Shastras correctly without getting together a galaxy of learned Pundits. You say, and your great meeting also, that in ancient time sea voyage was not unknown to the commercial Hindus. I say it was at one time their every day business. The Suburnabanik merchants of olden times did make such voyages, and the accumulated wealth of the class, on which the present generation is fattening, and which is dwindling to a low figure, was the outcome of such enterprise. Voyage to Madras by sloops or small vessels used to be very frequently made, and it was proved to me by an octogenarian by his account books, when I was a mere school boy.

I must not be understood to make a parade, but simply to show how easily the problem has been already solved, and which now has brought together so many learned heads, calculated to make confusion worse confounded. I am afraid that as the time for action draws nigh, and just when the Rubicon is to be crossed, those who showed earnestness of purpose at the first start, are only watching for a pretext, and a pretext they will have, when the question is left to the decision of Pundits and Brahmins, who are the cause of all retrograde moves.

Yours, &c.,

NO HUMBUG.

The 22nd August 1892.

II.—ANOTHER SOLUTION OF THE SEA VOYAGE PROBLEM.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MIRROR."]

SIR,—As your correspondent, "An Orthodox Hindu," is not disposed to recommend the example of the Suburnabanikas for adoption by the Sobha Bazar meeting, I would bring to the notice of your readers an instance, which may come home to the members of the community, who, according to the writer,

claim lineage from the outcome of intermarriages in ancient times. though the practice is not prevalent now.

A writer in the *Indian Daily News* of 19th August, last, says :—“ Babu Dwarka Nath Tagore took with him two Bengali medical students, who studied medicine in London.* One of them, Dr. Bhola Nath Bose, was employed as Medical Officer or rather Civil Surgeon, and held medical charge of several Districts in Bengal. To the memory of Dr. Bose, it may be added, that he died childless, and bequeathed his whole estate, about two lacs of rupees, for the establishment of a Charitable Dispensary and School in the village, where he was born. The bequest is in the hands of Government.”

Dr. Bose, after his retirement, spent the last years of his life in his garden at Narkoldanga. He died a few years ago. It is notorious that Dr. Bose adopted European habits of life, and did not mix in Hindu society, but he found no difficulty in giving his relatives in marriage, who lived with him, with sons or daughters, as the case may be, of respectable members of the Kayasth fraternity. On his death, his body was burnt at the Nimtollah Ghat with the usual Hindu rites and ceremonies. By his Will, he appointed two highly estimable Brahmins as Executors, who, according to the provisions of such Will, had the *Sradh* ceremony of the deceased performed by his widow, under their personal supervision. At first, some difficulty was experienced in getting Brahmins to help in the *Sradh* ceremony, but the offer of rich presents had the talismanic effect of winning over their prejudices, and everything went on as smoothly as if the *Sradh* was of a pure orthodox Hindu.

Your correspondent says that “ genuine Hindus are connected by one link—the link of priesthood.” Now this genuine Hindu —Dr. Bose, cannot be said to have lost his caste by sea voyage, prolonged residence in England for medical studies and by adopting the most unorthodox mode of life, after his return here. He did not undergo the *pryaschitta* ceremony before his death. There was no difficulty or obstacle thrown in the way of the *Sradh*, &c., by the Kayasth and Brahmins who deem

the water as polluted, if touched by a Sonarbania, and which test, your correspondent considers a Sonarbania to not a genuine Hindu. Now, the effect of your correspondent's finding would be, to upset all the judgments of the higher Court in applying Hindu law in disputes regarding property and inheritance, which cropped up from time to time among the Subarnabanik fraternity. On the audacity of this statement leave it to your readers to pronounce their verdict.

Now, I would seriously ask if the case of Dr. Bose is not a satisfactory solution of the sea voyage problem. Dr. Bose was not a Sonarbania, but the most genuine of genuine Kayasths. I would like to know if the learned Pundits and Interpreters of Shastric authority (including our respected Nyaratna Mohandas) raised their voice against the *Sradh* procedure of Dr. Bhadr Nath Bose; or did they take any steps for excommunicating their hereditary priests, who presided at the ceremony, and who were sumptuously fed at Dr. Bose's residence on the occasion of receiving rich presents? This is a typical case, and would speak "trumpet-tongued" in favour of the present sea voyage movement, and the Sobha Bazar meeting can act on this precedent.

It is said that the old venerable mother of the late Babu Ram Gopal Ghose rebuked his son for leading an unorthodox mode of life, and pointed out the difficulty which he would meet, after her demise, in getting Brahmins to attend her *Sradh* ceremony. Ram Gopal pointed out his iron safe, and said, that so long as he is strong in purse, he was sure of winning over the prejudices of the Kayasth's hereditary Brahmin priests.

Your correspondent says:—"There is the instance of the Subarnabaniks finding no admission into the Hindu Hostel. Is not this enough to show that the example of Sonarbanis, Jugis, Shahas, Namasudras, &c., cannot in any way affect the orthodox castes of Brahmins, Vaidyas and Kayasths?"

Let your correspondent draw his conclusion from the instance of the "genuine Hindu," an England-returned Indian who openly lived an unorthodox life.

As to the exclusion of the Sonarbanias from the Hindu Hostel, I will conclude with the following quotation from the *Hindu Patriot* of 26th October 1891:—

“Suburnabaniks justly make it a grievance that although a considerable portion of the funds, subscribed for the Hostel, come from members of their community, their boys are rigidly excluded from sharing the benefits of the institution.” It is for the donors to fight out the battle.

Yours, &c.,

NO HUMBUG.

The 21st September 1892.

III.—THE SUBARNABANIKS AND THE HINDU SEA VOYAGE MOVEMENT.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE “INDIAN MIRROR.”]

SIR,—YOUR correspondent, “An Orthobox Hindu,” invites careful attention of the Sôdha Bazar Committee (*vide Indian Mirror* of 20th September, 1892) to my letter, headed “A Solution of the Sea-voyage Problem” and points out that the good example set by the Suburnabaniks of Calcutta in this matter, should not influence the decision of the Committee on this vexed question. It is a pity that the writer with all his pretensions to education is still tenacious of the exploded prejudices against this caste, fostered and originated under an edict of Rajah Ballal Sen. I would request the attention of the Committee and of your readers for their just and liberal consideration the following extract from a pamphlet, entitled “The Suburnabaniks of Bengal, their Origin and History:”—“Of the four great castes into which Hindus are divided, *viz.*, Brahmins, Kshetriyas, Vaisyas and Sudras, the Suburnabaniks were included under the Vaisyas or the trading and commercial classes. They were supposed to have been degraded by an edict of Rajah Ballal Sen, who was a Vaidya, the ruling King of Bengal, whose reign commenced about the year 1066 A. D. and which is remarkable for the institution of Kulinism,

an institution pronounced by the unanimous sentence of posterity to be the baneful plague-spot of the nation. The history of the social degradation of the Suburnabaniks is impartially and correctly narrated in the Biography of Ballal Sen, published in the *National Magazine* for August 1891, and from which we make the following extract :—

“ The whole history of Kulinism is the history of a bouleversement, in the strata of society, of a disfigurement of the social scene by demoralization abuse, scandal and crime, shocking to humanity. While such has been the effect of Ballal's law on domestic life, how pernicious has been its consequences from a national point of view. It has told awfully upon the morals and manners of those, whose lives instead of being edifying examples exhibit a lamentable picture of depravity, resulting in general corruption. It is to be hoped that education in our day will restore the tone of the public mind, and by reviving its moral sense, bring about the re-construction of the Corinthian Capital of the social edifice.

“ Far otherwise did Ballal treat the Suburnabaniks of his kingdom. He won over the Kulin Brahmans and their *proteges* by a gracious and sympathetic policy. But he bore a great ill will towards the members of the Bania class, against whom he organised a crusade of absolutism. About the middle of the 10th century. Sanak Adhya, a Bania merchant of great wealth and influence, left his native city of Ayodhya, with a large number of relatives and fellow-caste men, to settle in Bengal. He arrived in the Court of Adisura, who welcomed him to his kingdom. The site, chosen by Sanak Adhya for his abode, was the tongue of land, comprised between the old Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers. It was selected with an eye to its great commercial advantages, where Sanak prospered so immensely that he was honoured with the title of Suburnabanik (corresponding to Sett in the Mogul times) for his extensive dealings in that precious metal. His fellow-emigrants became Suburnabaniks, and his thriving colony was called Suvarnagram or gold Town. The descendant of Sanak

at the time of Ballal Sen was Ballava Adhya, who is said to have possessed the fabulous sum of thirteen crores of *tankhas*. He did true and loyal service to the Viadya Rajah by accommodating him with funds for carrying on his wars with the Manipuris. The sum at first borrowed was 25 lacs. A second loan of 5 lacs was taken. But the war protracting, Ballal wrote from his camp for a fresh sum of 5 lacs. Ballava made excuses, and urged the conclusion of the war by an unhappy allusion to his Ambastha or mixed caste, and to his tribal unfitness for military enterprises. The Vaidya Rajah felt extremely piqued at the denial and the imputation. The insult rankled in his mind. Other causes contributed to increase his resentment and bitterness. Certain youthful Banias had held him up to ridicule in a farce touching his Dome mistress. Their patronage of many Vaidik Brahmins had largely raised the *prestige* of their class. They had refused to accept his *Prayaschitta* invitation. They did not countenance his policy of Kulinism. Ballal was jealous of their superior (Vaisya) caste and influence. He determined, therefore, to destroy their status. He swore to deprive them of their social importance—to humble them by degradation from their leading position. In the great *prayaschitta*, performed by him, Ballal had distributed to the Brahmins many images of cows made of gold. In one of them, he had contrived to put in counterfeit blood. On its being taken to the bazar for sale by its Brahmin recipient, the Bania tested the gold by cutting open the image, when to his horror, blood issued from its body. The Brahmin, who was in the secret, loudly proclaimed his guilt of cow-slaughter in the bazar, and went up with the news to the Rajah. Ballal took it up with eagerness. He further instigated a Brahmin to charge another Bania with the theft of his gold-cow. Both were heinous crimes for a Hindu; and the imperious Ballal issued his fiat, denouncing the Subarnabaniks as Sudras without any more claim to the sacred thread of the Vaisyas, and shutting them out from all social privileges and rank. How be it, by hook or crook, the fall of the Subarnabaniks was

compassed. The despot next enforced his orders by much active persecution and outrage. Ballava retired in disgust to Jagannath. The colony at Suvurnagram broke up, and its members dispersed themselves in various parts of Bengal. Ever since the wanton injustice done to them so arbitrarily, the Suvarnabaniks have lived by themselves, an humbled class, quietly engaged in the pursuits of commerce and trade. The strict Brahmin has always avoided them. The Kayastha, not excepting even the non-descript *Seventy-twos*, has turned the tables upon them. The other classes have also held aloof. But the Bania has bent to, and not been broken by the storm. He has lived on independently, secure in his silver armour. He has had his own Purohita (priest), his own Napta (barber), and his own Rojok (washerman). He is the great fund-holder and capitalist, who is an indispensable factor and the backbone of his country. The Kayastha, so dead against him, often gives forth a hollow ring—he is a Sanskrit scholar merely by his parade of quotations from the Shastras, is a landholder always in dread of the sun-set-law, and is a great man by virtue of his pretensions and presumptions. The frugal, economic, and provident Bania generally has a heavy purse which is an eyesore to his prodigal adversary, but which many a time draws that adversary as an applicant for accommodation.* The Kayastha, worshipping Saraswati, lives by his wits, and is a nine days meteoric wonder. The Suburnabanik, worshipping Luchmi, is the constant pole star that knows no setting. Long ill used, the Bania is now a respected gentleman under the British Government. He has distinguished himself by his commanding position in its financial transactions. The battle of Plassey was won, and the foundation of the British Empire

* Once on a time, Rajah Nabakissen had occasion for funds, and found them short by two thousand rupees. To ask for the loan of such a small sum would have betrayed his hollowness, so he borrowed from the great Bania millionaire of his time, Nemy Churn Mullick, a lac of rupees, for which he paid interest without any rhyme or reason.

and other persons of respectability of the Kayast caste, to which the bridegroom belongs. Among other distinguished guests present, were the Hon'ble Justice Chunder Madhub Ghose and Mahamahopadhyaya Mohesh Chunder Nyaratna.

This announcement is of special importance at the present moment, happening as it does at a time when the delegates to the National Congress are thinking of holding a session of the Congress in London.

As I have observed in my previous letters, the solution of the problem should be left to members of each caste, as in the case of the Subarnabaniks. To get all castes together for coming to an unanimous resolution on the subject, is out of question at the present moment. Moreover, why should we trouble ourselves in the way we have done hitherto, when there are no intermarriages amongst us? A few more examples of this kind will have more potent influence on Hindu society than any amount of Shastric interpretations or misinterpretations.

Now, with regard to the quality, and status of persons, who may be selected as delegates for the London Congress, it would serve a great purpose if we could induce some persons of wealth and of commercial spirit, and other men of independent position to join the movement. It is not merely the ventilation of national grievances before the English public, that should induce men to leave India and be present at the London Congress. London is the capital of the world, and it should be visited with the same intelligent interest, as was evinced lately by the Gaekwar of Baroda, as would appear from his speech on the Lord Mayor's day. Such of our countrymen as are engaged in trade and commerce, and are interested in the agricultural resources of the country, should be induced to undertake the journey. When objects of interest are seen with their own eyes, the experience and knowledge, gained even by short residence in London, would be of incalculable benefit, not only to themselves, but also to the people at large.

No time should be lost in selecting such candidates from all the Presidencies and Provinces. Such a heroic band will be the pioneers in introducing reforms and improvements in trades, arts and industries. To give the deputation importance and dignity, we must move our Knighted Maharajahs or their representatives to join also,

It should consist of nobility and gentry as well as prominent men of all professions.

Now that the caste difficulty has been satisfactorily solved by a community to which the fear of being outcasted was a great bug-bear, the question has taken an easy turn, and there can no longer be any excuse or pretext on the part of the chief promoters of the sea voyage movement, headed by our amiable Maharajah Sir Norendra Krishna, Bahadur, to undertake the sea voyage. The *personnel* of the Congress party in London will be another name for success, and if these noblemen once proclaim their willingness to brave the sea, there will be no lack of true and good men to join them. If the Gaekwar of Baroda, amidst his pressing duties in his own Raj, could find leisure to spend a season in London, and visit the continent, our landed aristocracy can surely follow his good example.

Yours, &c.,

No HUMBAG.

The 2nd December 1892.



